DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS

image

#01

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE ONE

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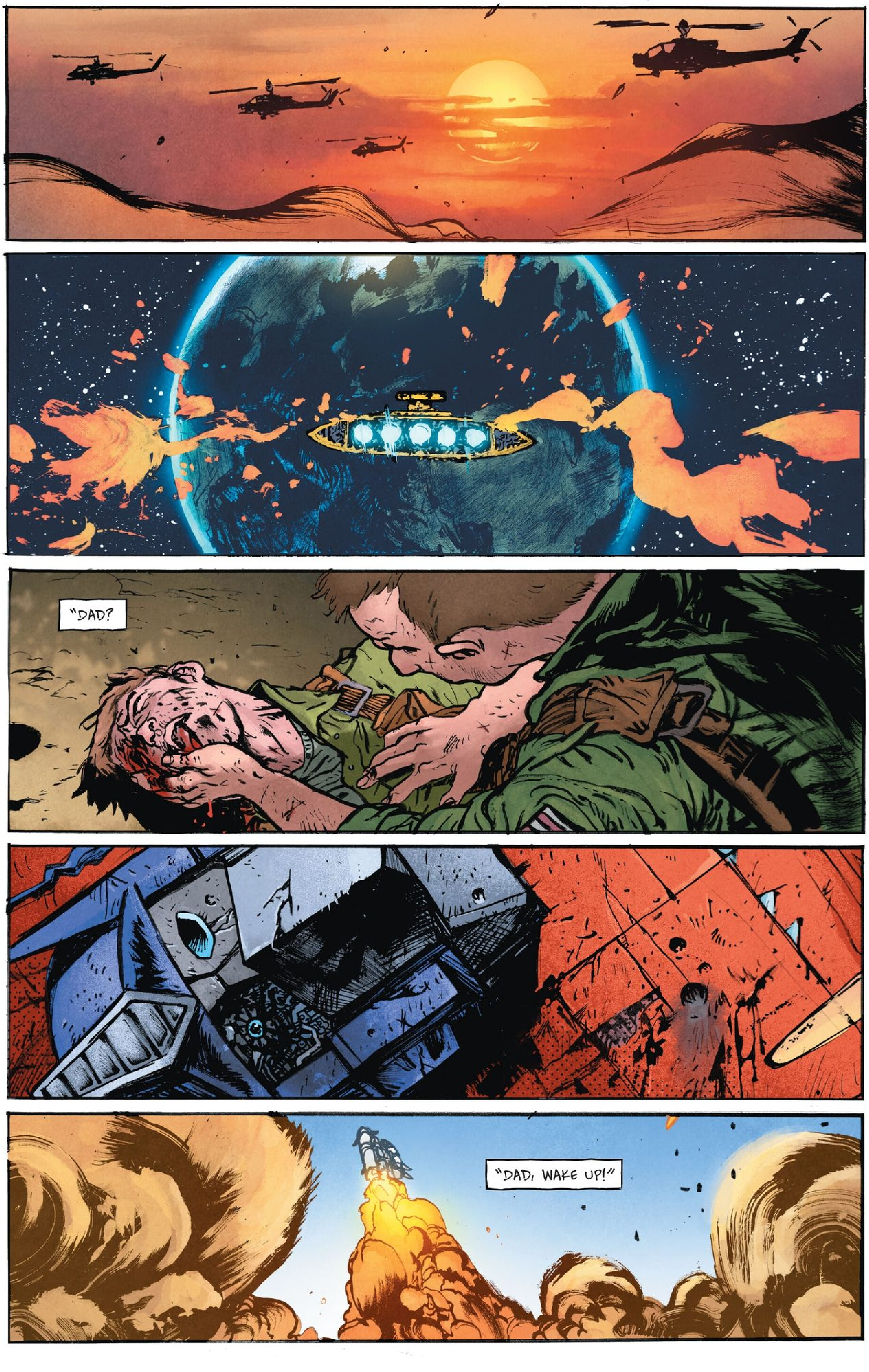
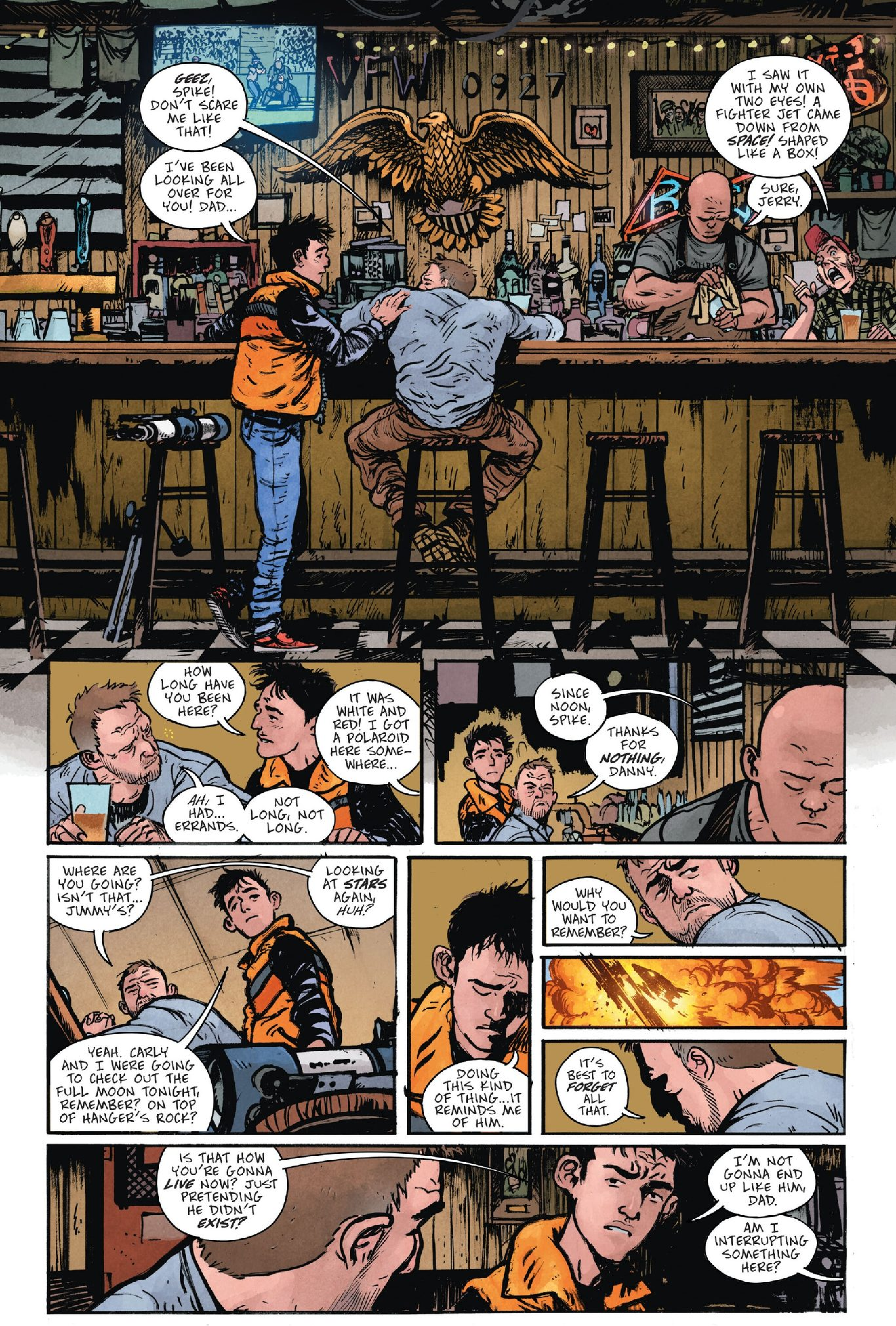
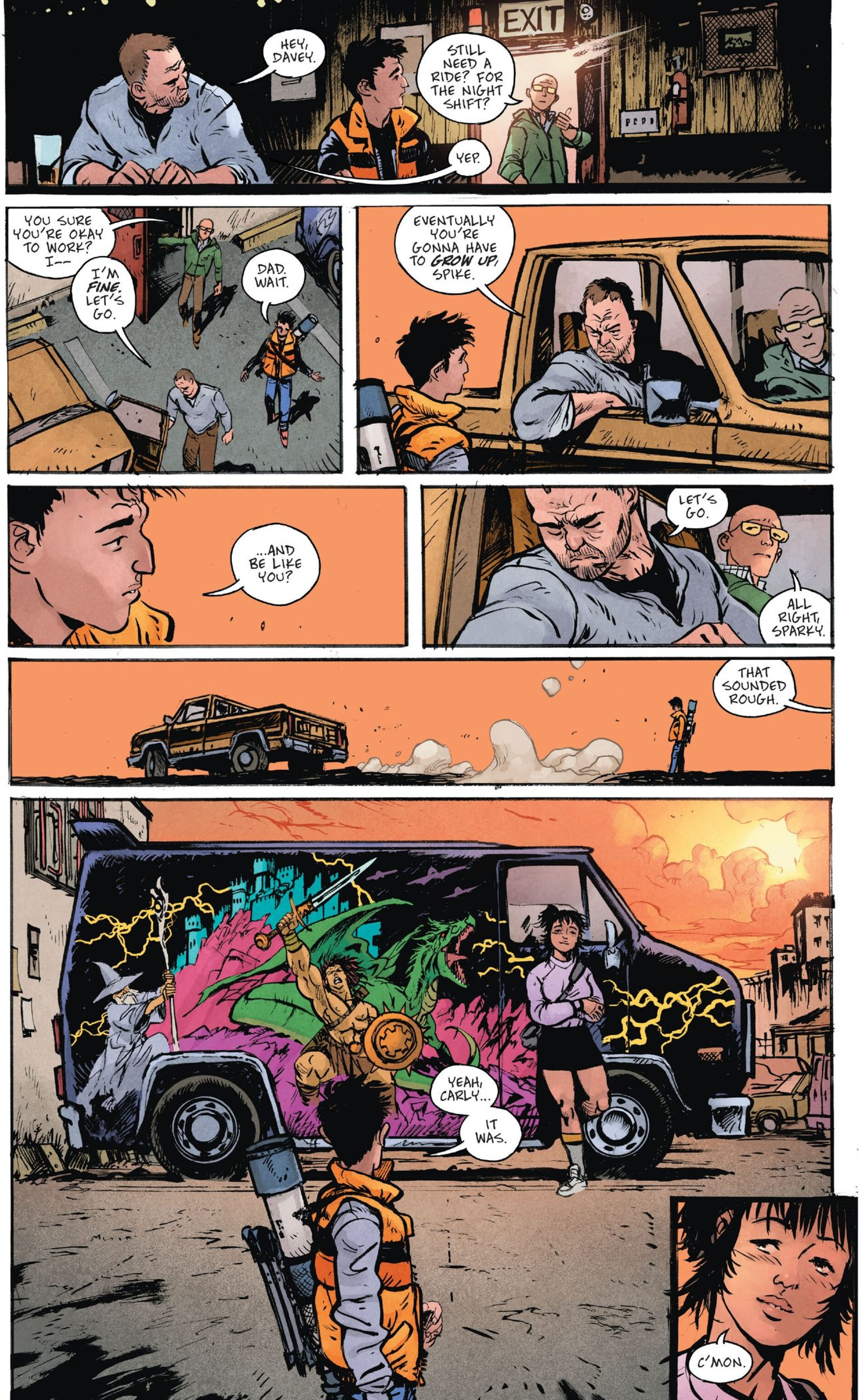
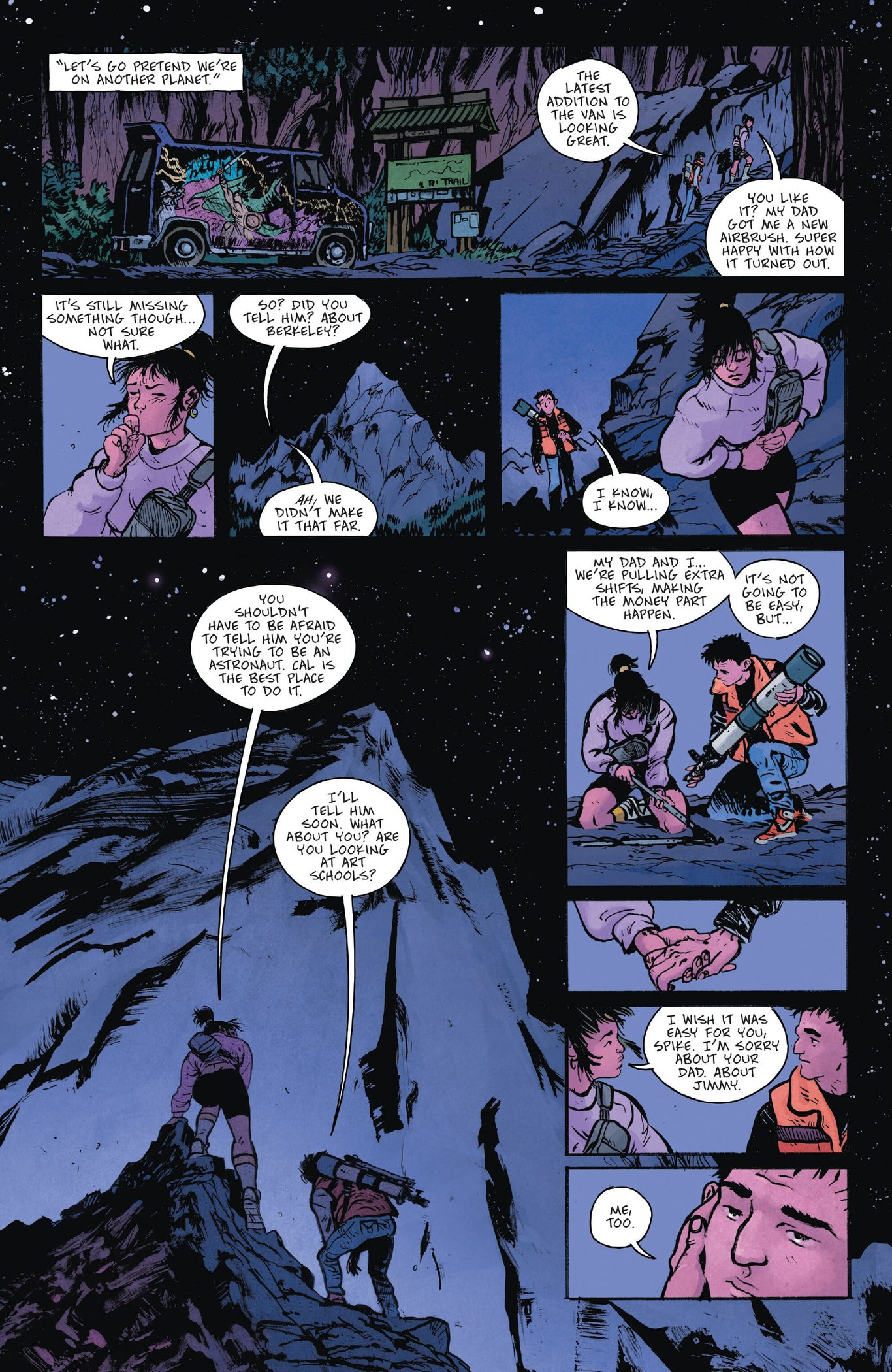
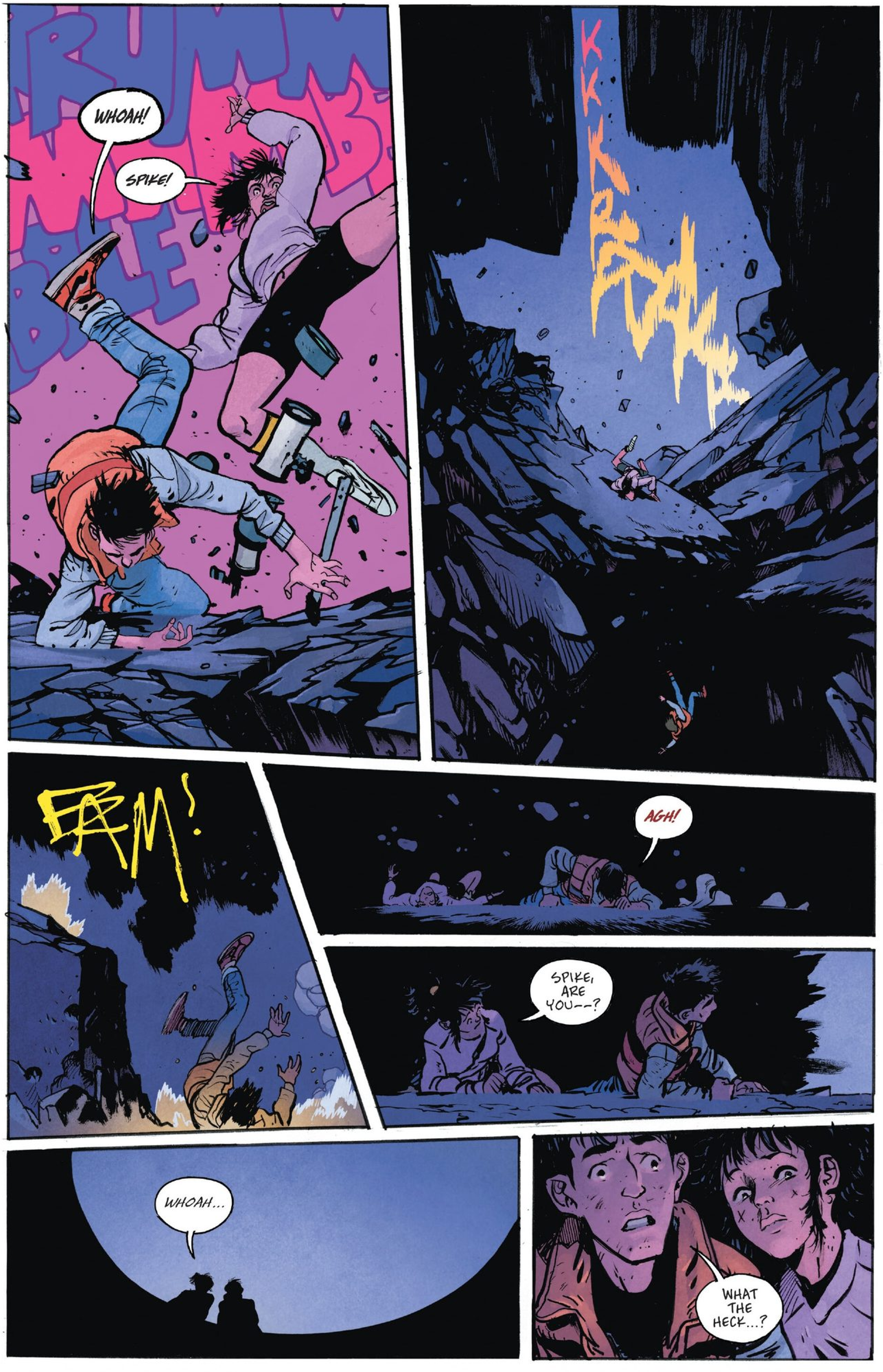
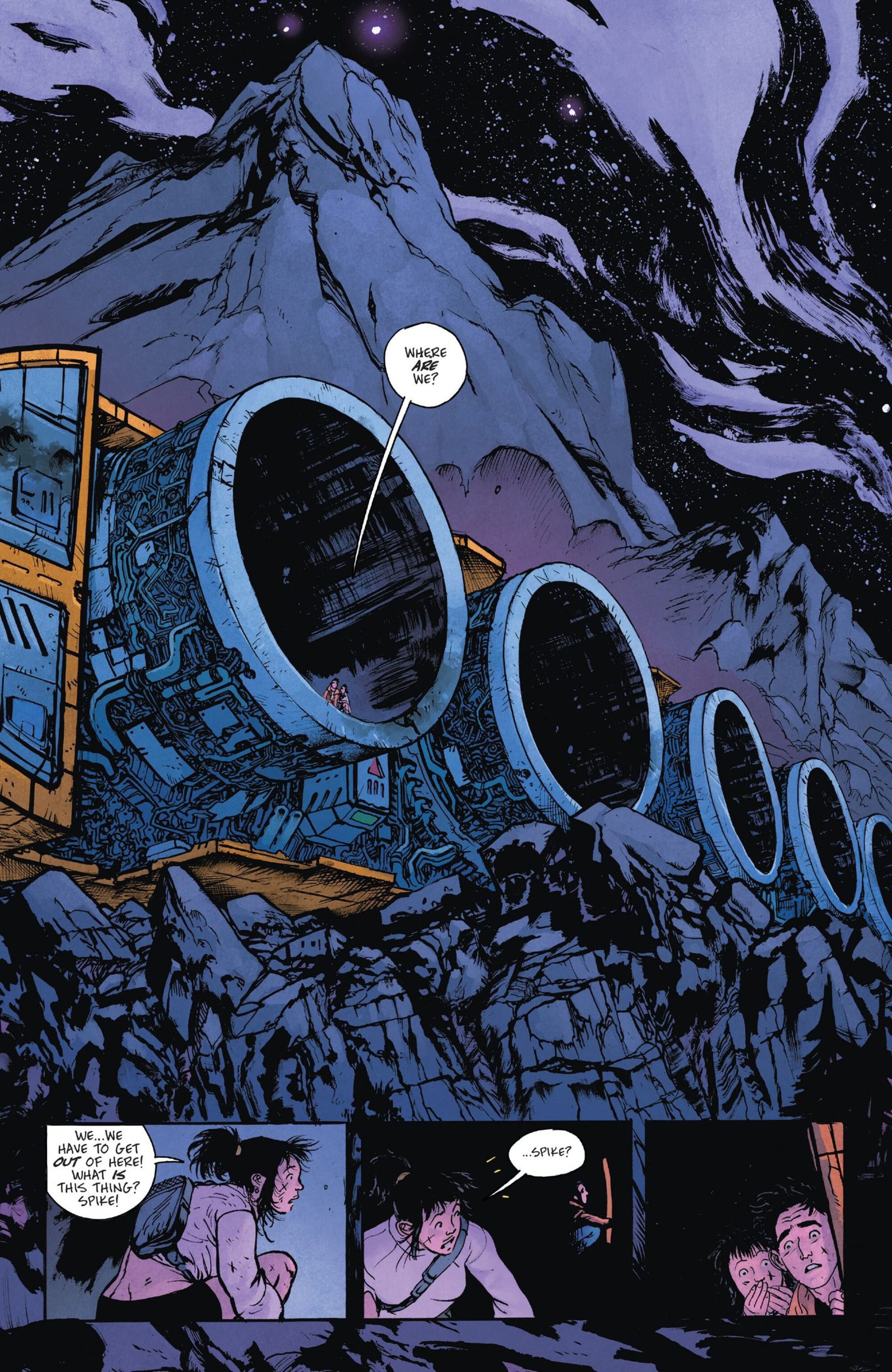

"DAD?
"DAD, WAKE UP!"

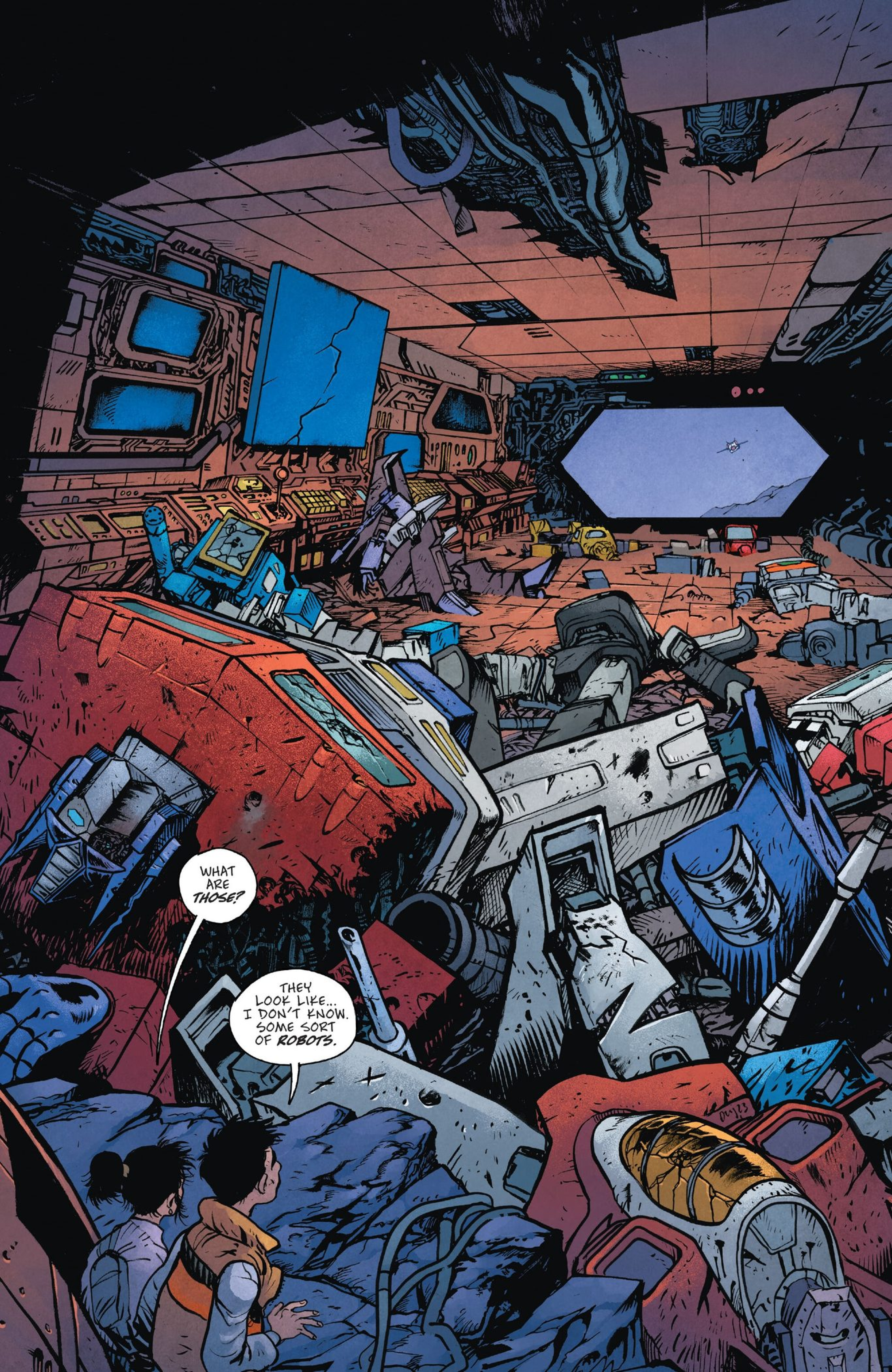

VFW 0927
GEEZ, SPIKE! DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU! DAD...
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN TWO EYES! A FIGHTER JET CAME DOWN FROM *SPACE!* SHAPED LIKE A BOX!
SURE, JERRY.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?
AH, I HAD... ERRANDS.
NOT LONG, NOT LONG.
IT WAS WHITE AND RED! I GOT A POLAROID HERE SOMEWHERE...
SINCE NOON, SPIKE.
THANKS FOR *NOTHING*, DANNY.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? ISN'T THAT... JIMMY'S?
LOOKING AT *STARS* AGAIN, *HUH?*
YEAH. CARLY AND I WERE GOING TO CHECK OUT THE FULL MOON TONIGHT, REMEMBER? ON TOP OF HANGER'S ROCK?
DOING THIS KIND OF THING... IT REMINDS ME OF HIM.
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO REMEMBER?
IT'S BEST TO *FORGET* ALL THAT.
IS THAT HOW YOU'RE GONNA *LIVE* NOW? JUST PRETENDING HE DIDN'T *EXIST?*
I'M NOT GONNA END UP LIKE HIM, DAD.
AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING HERE?

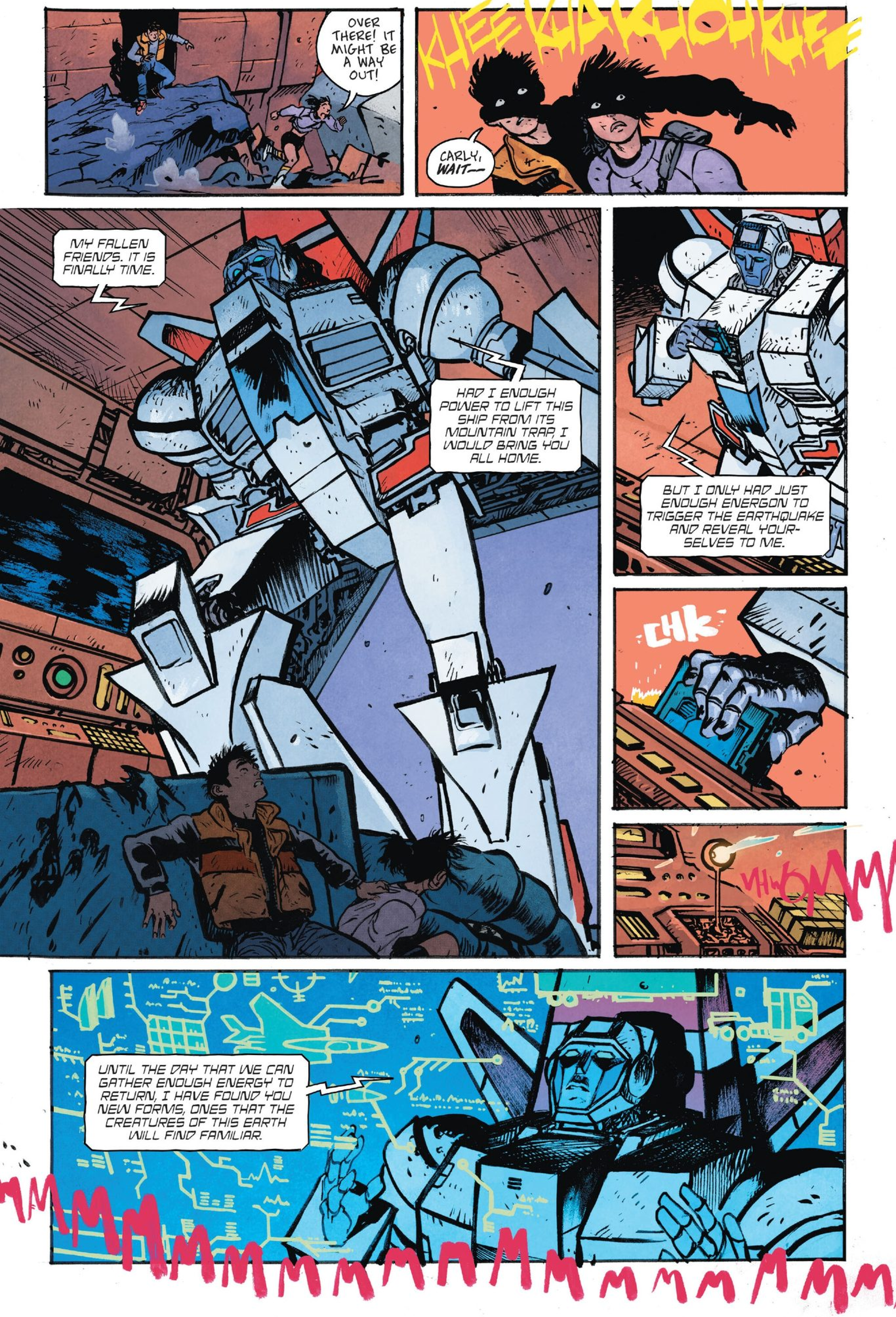

HEY, DAVEY.
STILL NEED A RIDE? FOR THE NIGHT SHIFT?
YEP.
YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY TO WORK? I--
I'M **FINE**. LET'S GO.
DAD. WAIT.
EVENTUALLY YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO **GROW UP**, SPIKE.
...AND BE LIKE YOU?
LET'S GO.
ALL RIGHT, SPARKY.
THAT SOUNDED ROUGH.
YEAH, CARLY...
IT WAS.
C'MON.

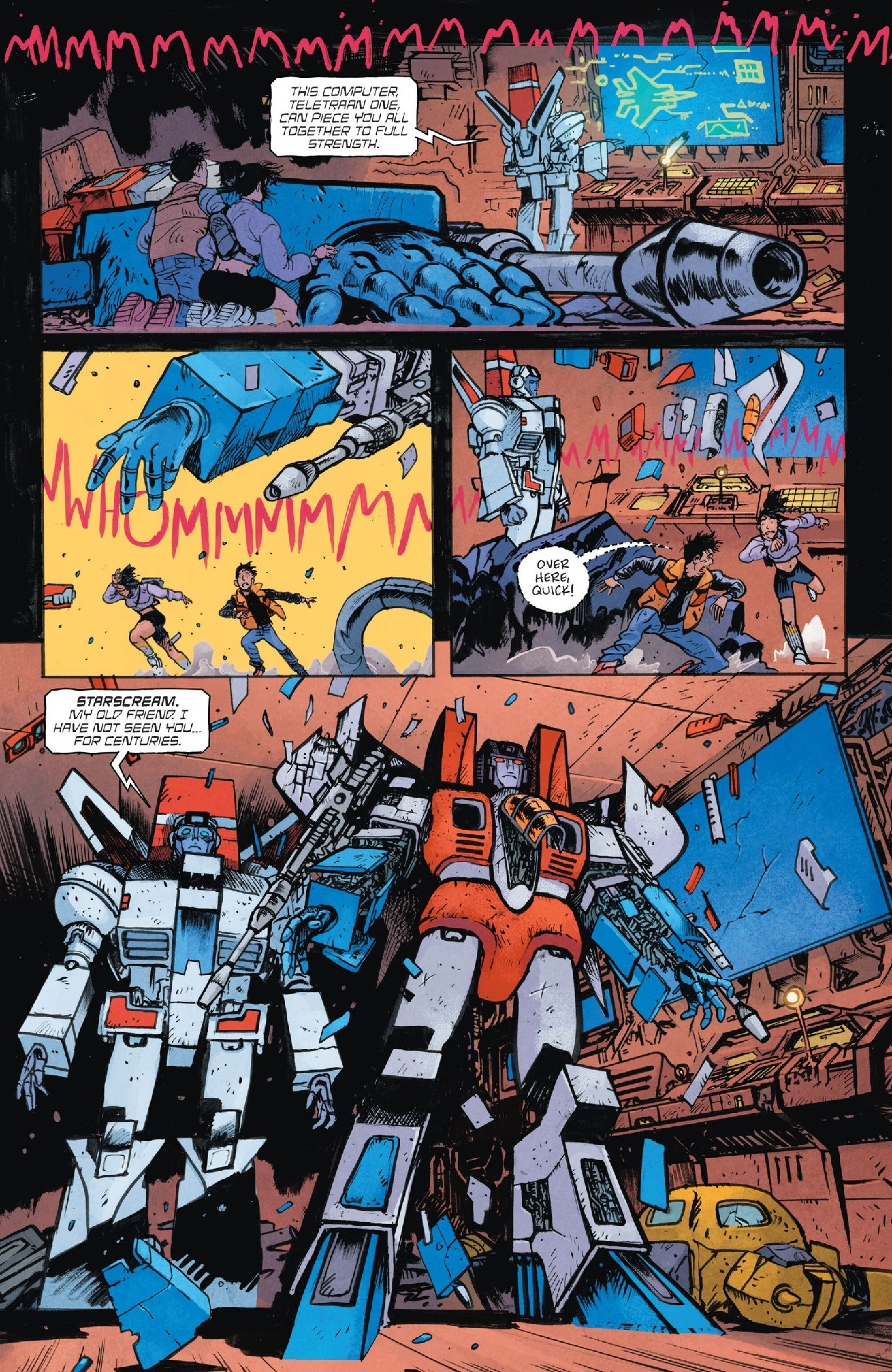

"LET'S GO PRETEND WE'RE ON ANOTHER PLANET."
TRAIL
THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE VAN IS LOOKING GREAT.
YOU LIKE IT? MY DAD GOT ME A NEW AIRBRUSH. SUPER HAPPY WITH HOW IT TURNED OUT.
IT'S STILL MISSING SOMETHING THOUGH... NOT SURE WHAT.
SO? DID YOU TELL HIM? ABOUT BERKELEY?
AH, WE DIDN'T MAKE IT THAT FAR.
I KNOW, I KNOW...
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID TO TELL HIM YOU'RE TRYING TO BE AN ASTRONAUT. CAL IS THE BEST PLACE TO DO IT.
I'LL TELL HIM SOON. WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU LOOKING AT ART SCHOOLS?
MY DAD AND I... WE'RE PULLING EXTRA SHIFTS, MAKING THE MONEY PART HAPPEN.
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY, BUT...
I WISH IT WAS EASY FOR YOU, SPIKE. I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR DAD. ABOUT JIMMY.
ME, TOO.

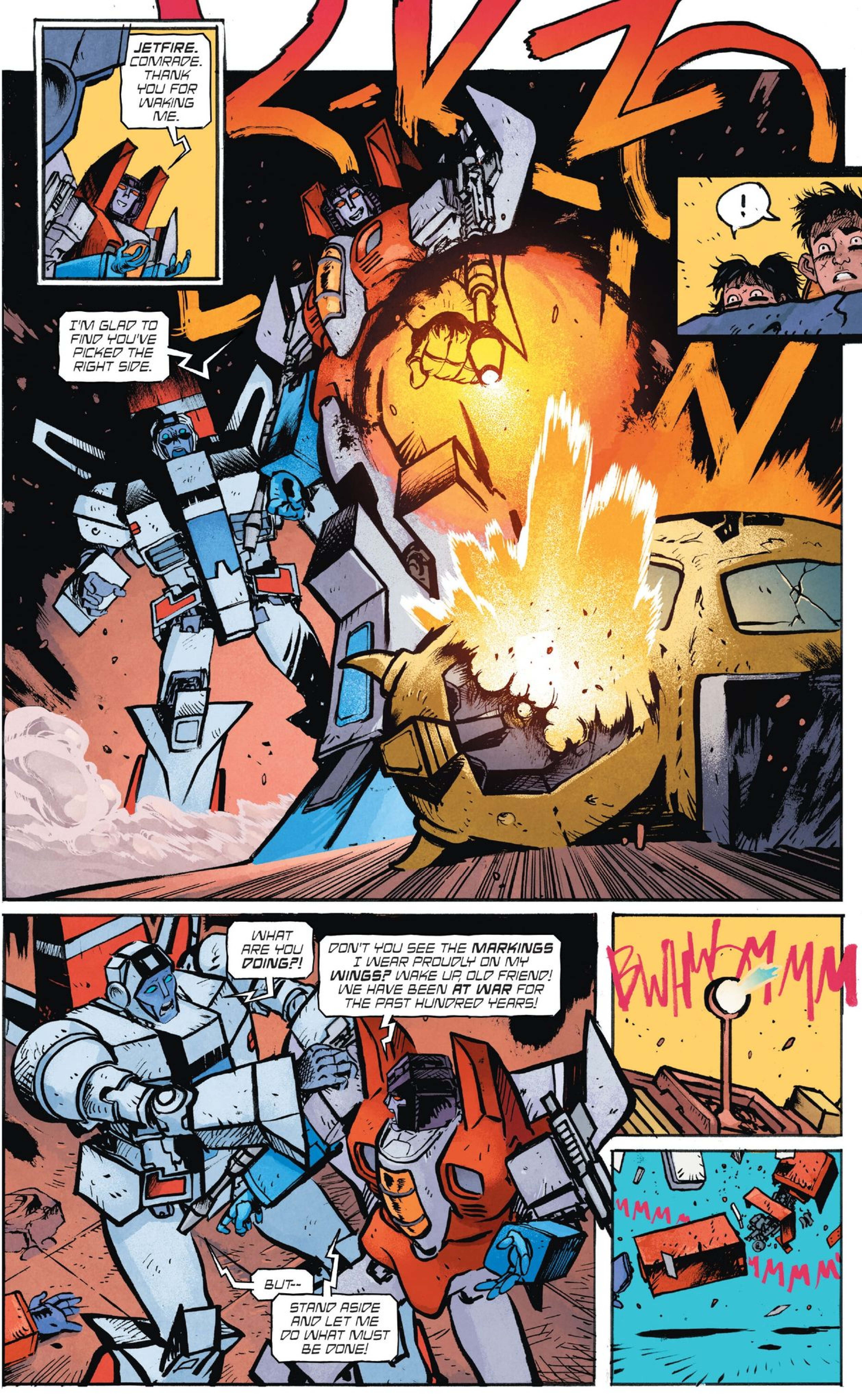

WHOAH!
SPIKE!
AGH!
SPIKE, ARE YOU--?
WHOAH...
WHAT THE HECK...?

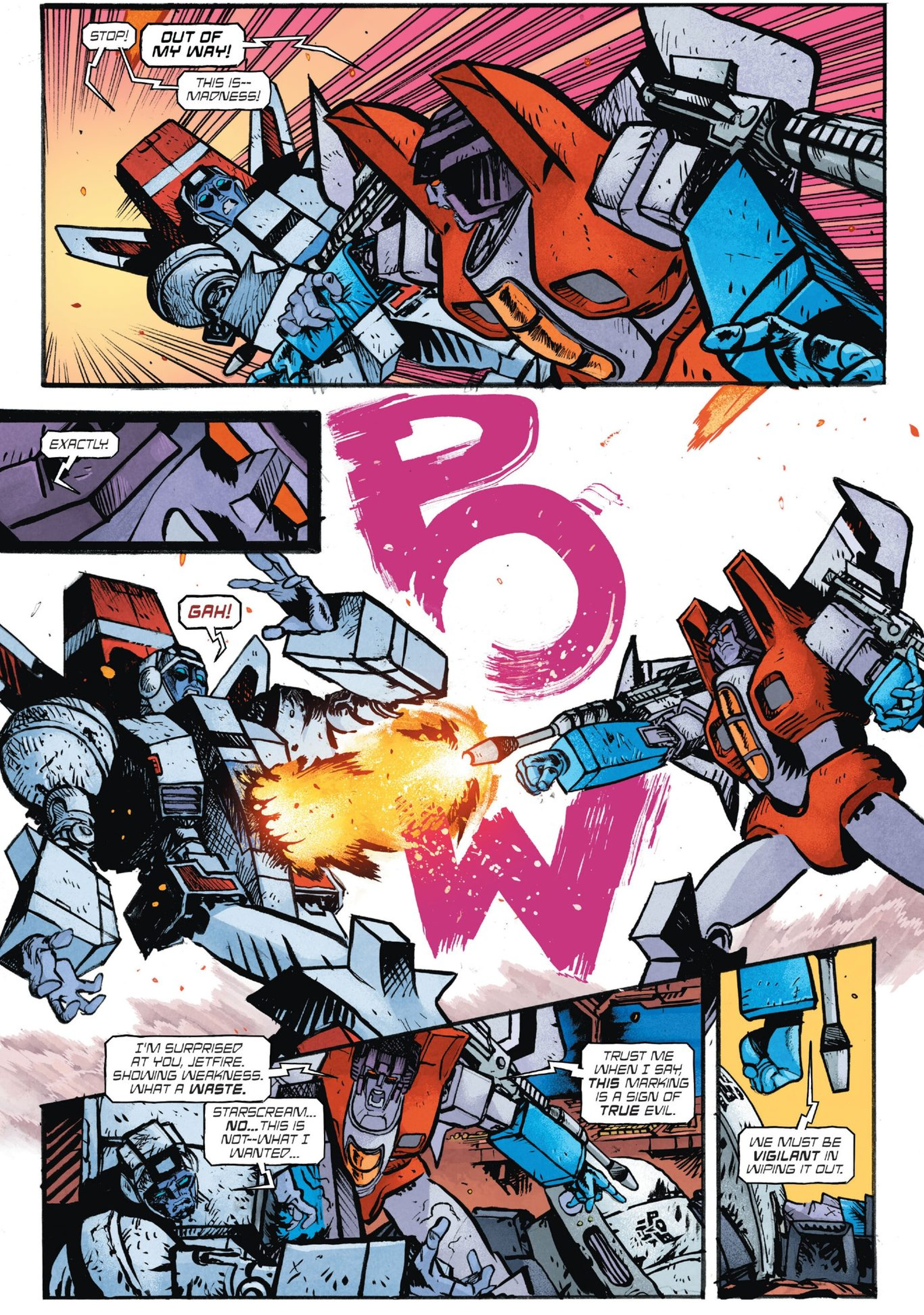

WHERE *ARE* WE?
WE...WE HAVE TO GET *OUT* OF HERE! WHAT *IS* THIS THING? SPIKE!
...SPIKE?

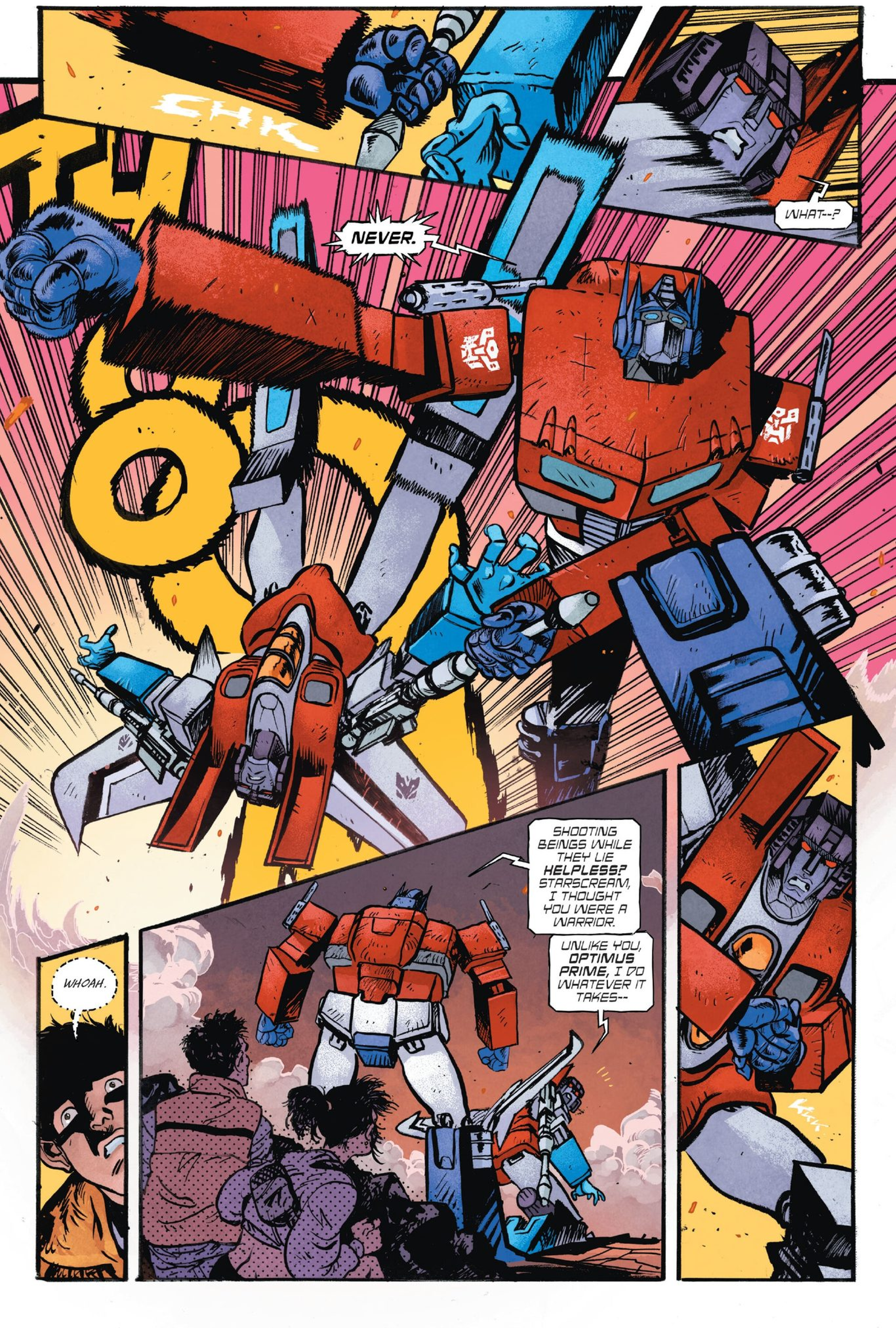

WHAT ARE *THOSE?*
THEY LOOK LIKE... I DON'T KNOW. SOME SORT OF *ROBOTS.*

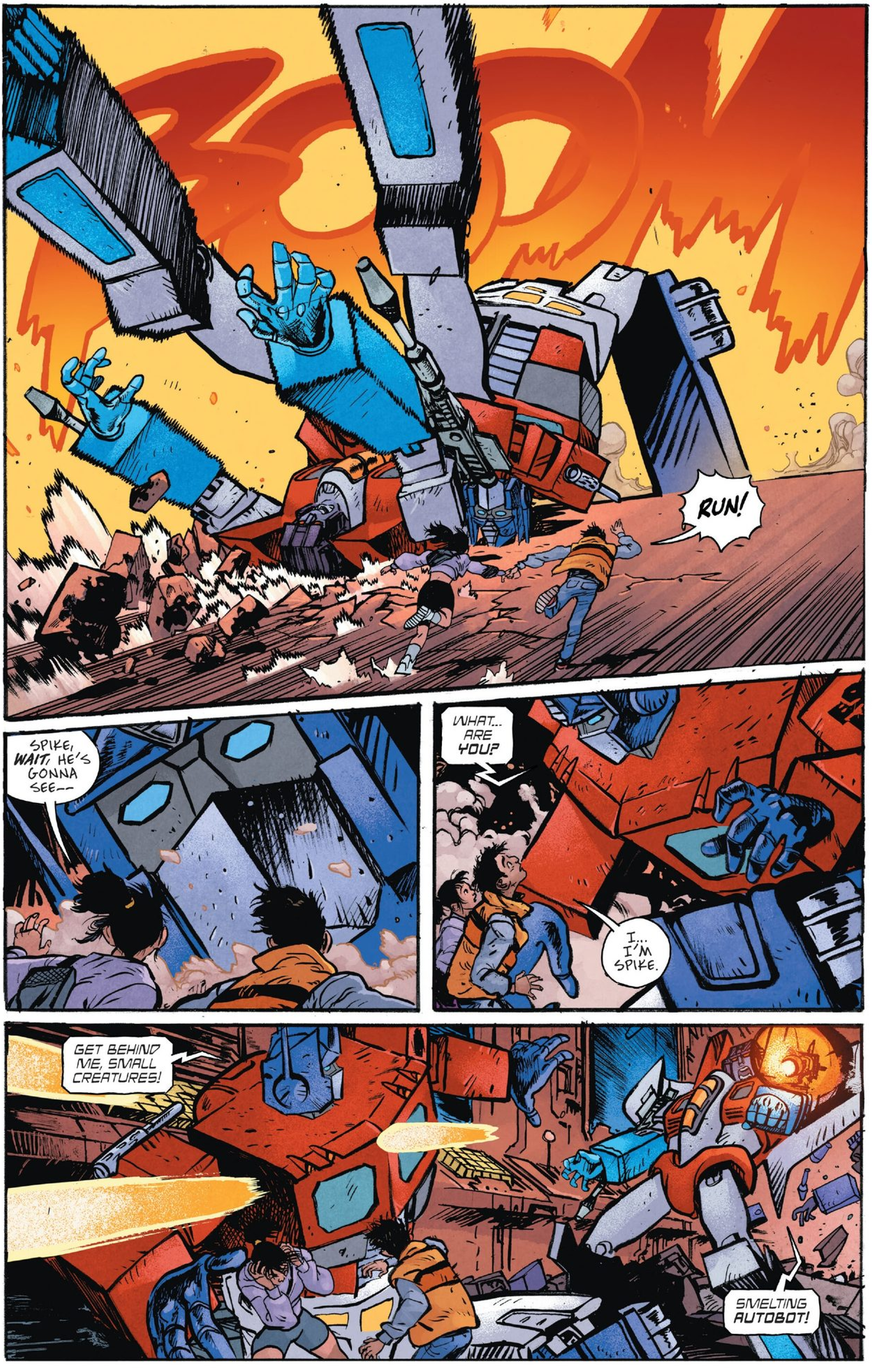

OVER THERE! IT MIGHT BE A WAY OUT!
KHEEKHAKLOUKHEE
CARLY, WAIT—
MY FALLEN FRIENDS. IT IS FINALLY TIME.
HAD I ENOUGH POWER TO LIFT THIS SHIP FROM ITS MOUNTAIN TRAP, I WOULD BRING YOU ALL HOME.
BUT I ONLY HAD JUST ENOUGH ENERGON TO TRIGGER THE EARTHQUAKE AND REVEAL YOURSELVES TO ME.
CHK
VHWOMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
UNTIL THE DAY THAT WE CAN GATHER ENOUGH ENERGY TO RETURN, I HAVE FOUND YOU NEW FORMS, ONES THAT THE CREATURES OF THIS EARTH WILL FIND FAMILIAR.

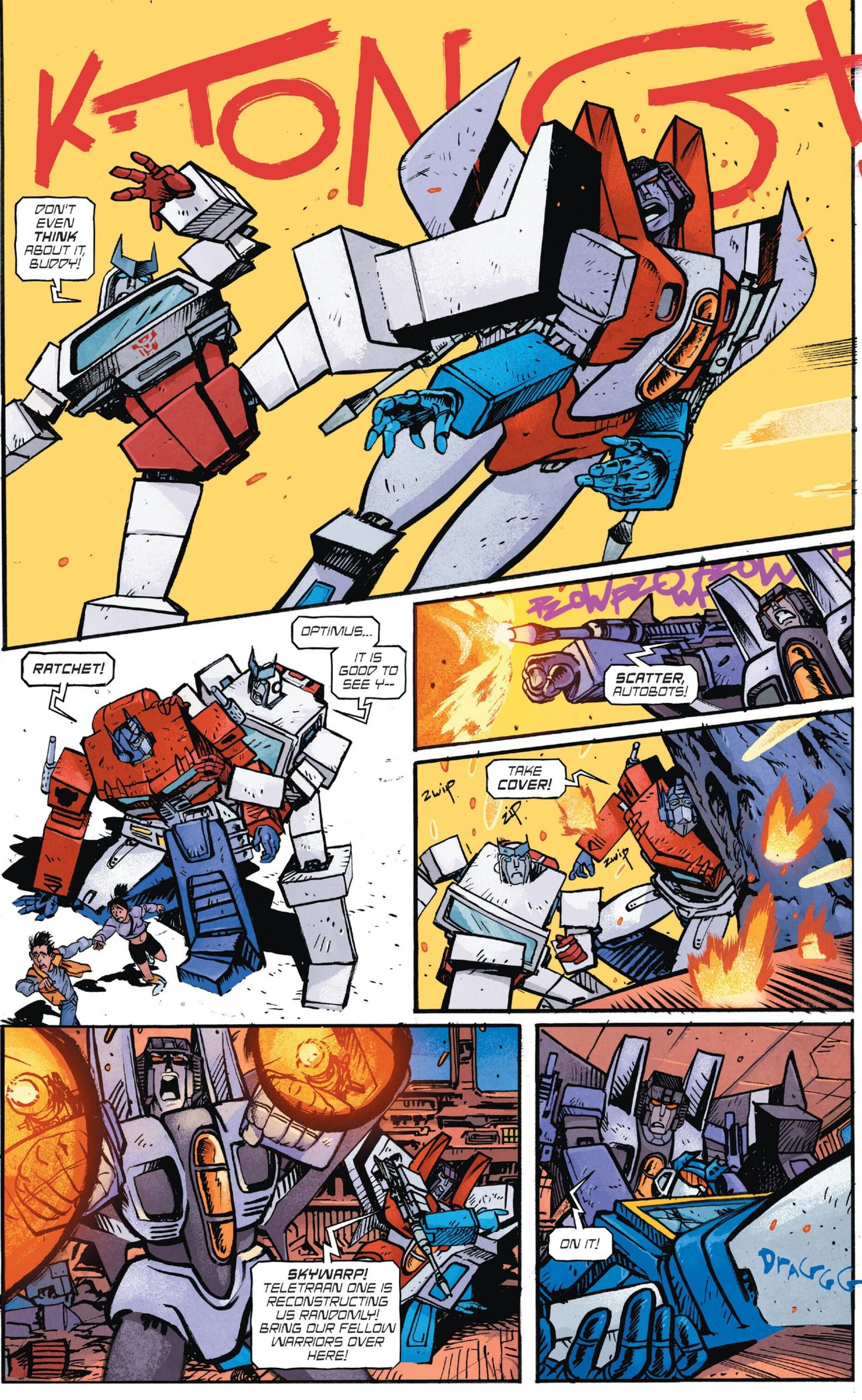

MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
THIS COMPUTER, TELETRAAN ONE, CAN PIECE YOU ALL TOGETHER TO FULL STRENGTH.
WHOMMMMMMMM
MMMMMMMMMM
OVER HERE, QUICK!
STARSCREAM. MY OLD FRIEND. I HAVE NOT SEEN YOU... FOR CENTURIES.

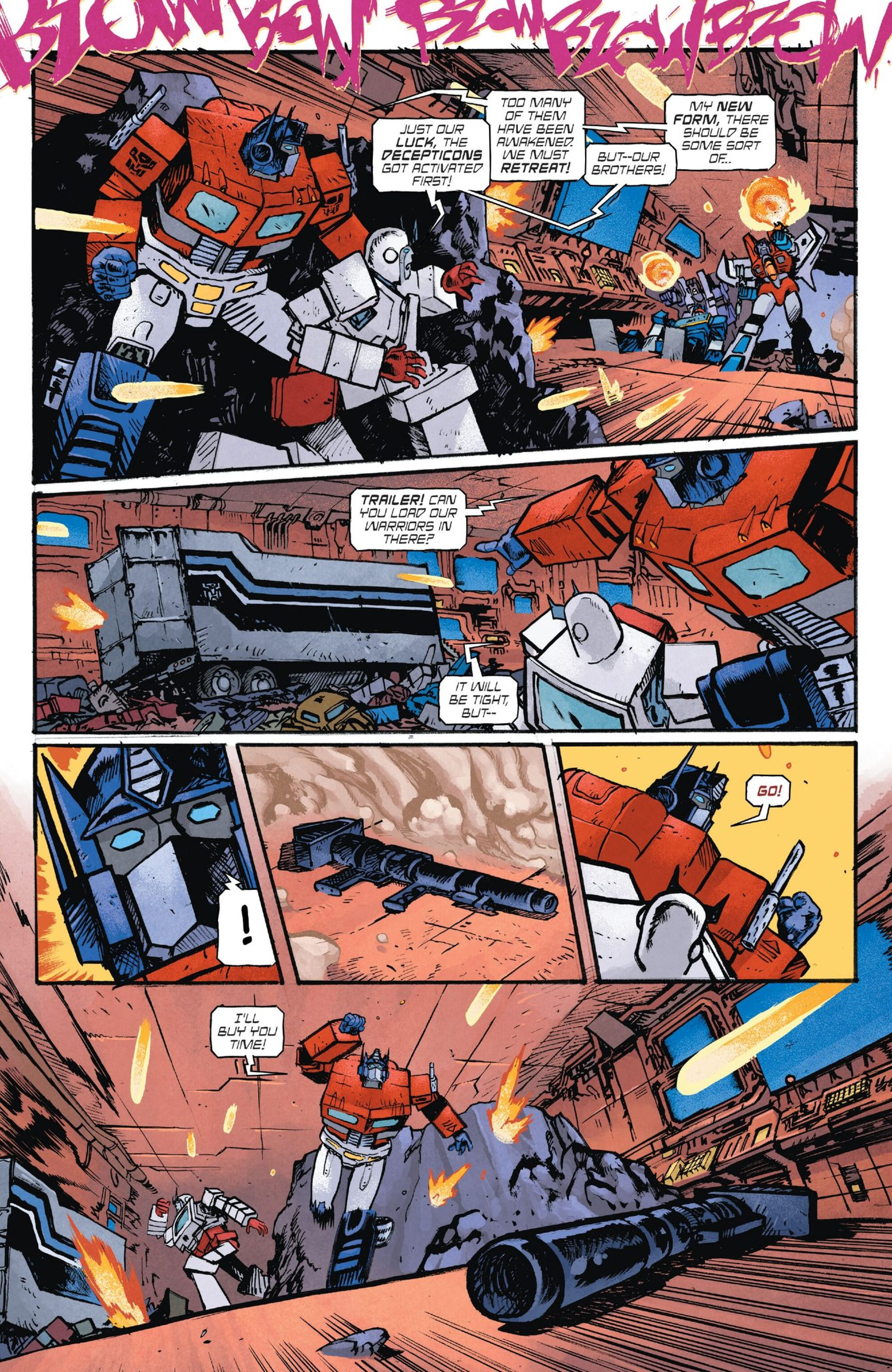

JETFIRE. COMRADE. THANK YOU FOR WAKING ME.
!
I'M GLAD TO FIND YOU'VE PICKED THE RIGHT SIDE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DON'T YOU SEE THE MARKINGS I WEAR PROUDLY ON MY WINGS? WAKE UP, OLD FRIEND! WE HAVE BEEN AT WAR FOR THE PAST HUNDRED YEARS!
BUT--
STAND ASIDE AND LET ME DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!
BWHMMMMM
MMMM
MMMM

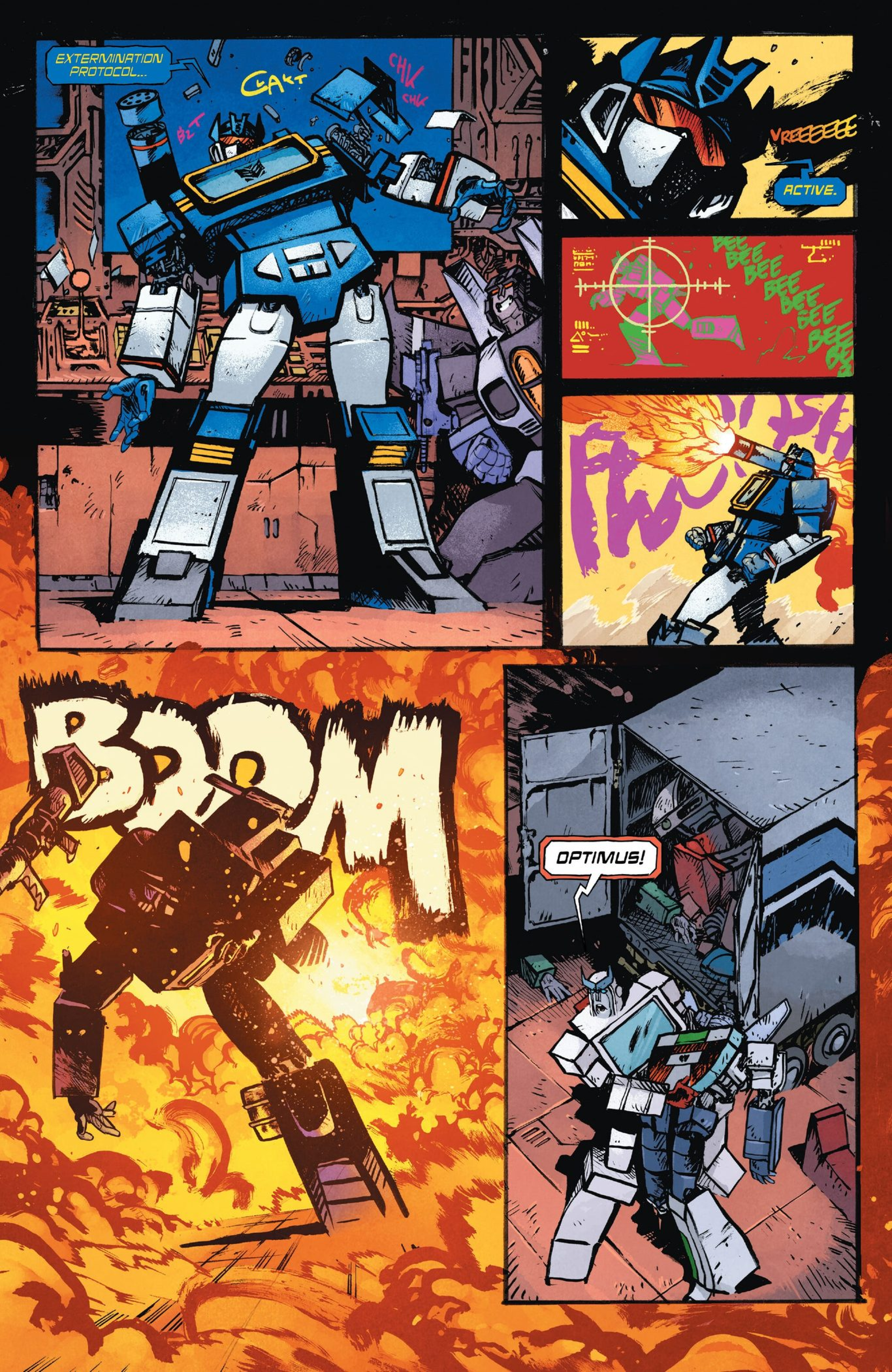

STOP!
OUT OF MY WAY!
THIS IS-- MADNESS!
EXACTLY.
POW
GAH!
I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, JETFIRE. SHOWING WEAKNESS. WHAT A **WASTE.**
STARSCREAM... **NO**...THIS IS NOT--WHAT I WANTED...
TRUST ME WHEN I SAY, **THIS** MARKING IS A SIGN OF **TRUE** EVIL.
WE MUST BE **VIGILANT** IN WIPING IT OUT.

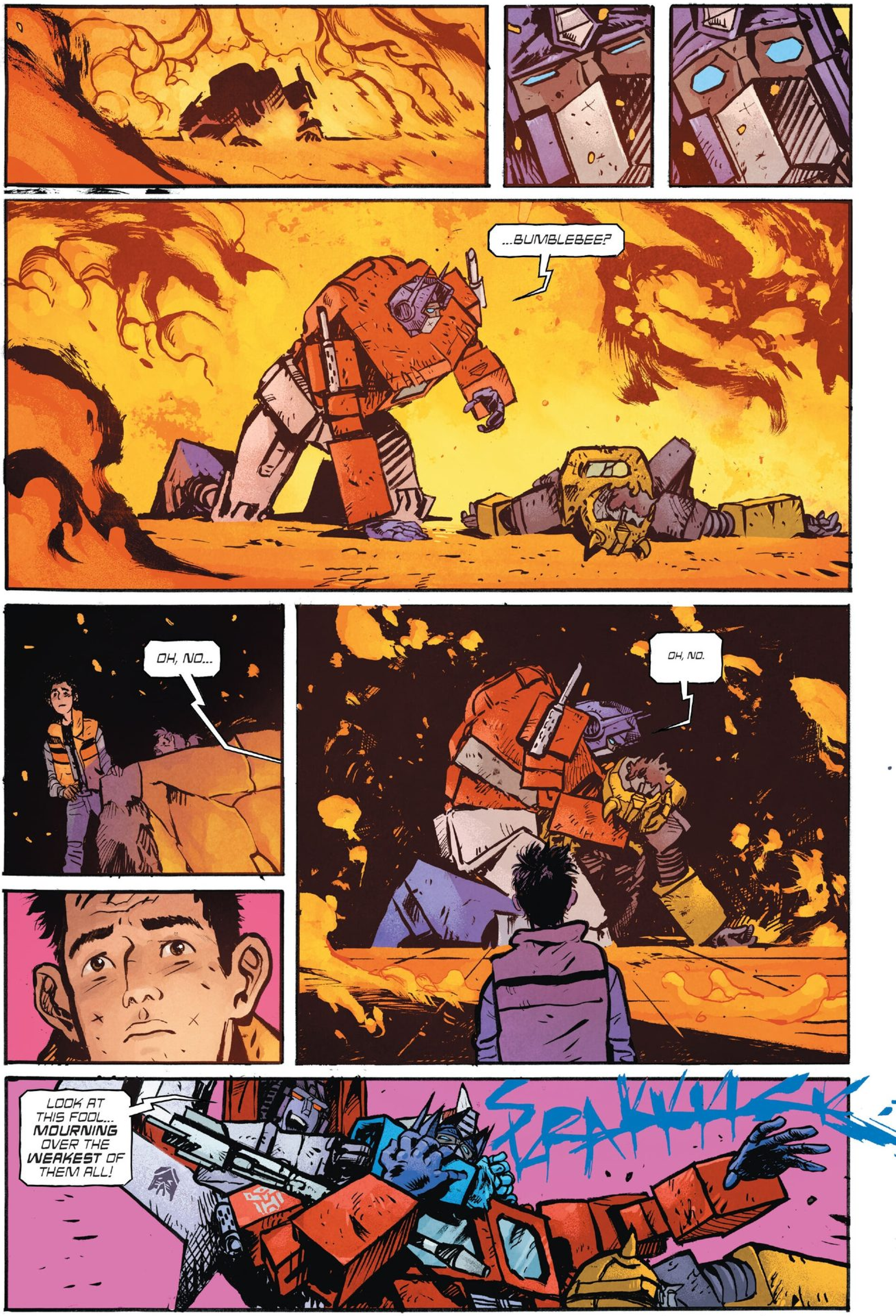

CHK
NEVER.
WHAT--?
WHOAH.
SHOOTING BEINGS WHILE THEY LIE HELPLESS? STARSCREAM, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A WARRIOR.
UNLIKE YOU, OPTIMUS PRIME, I DO WHATEVER IT TAKES--

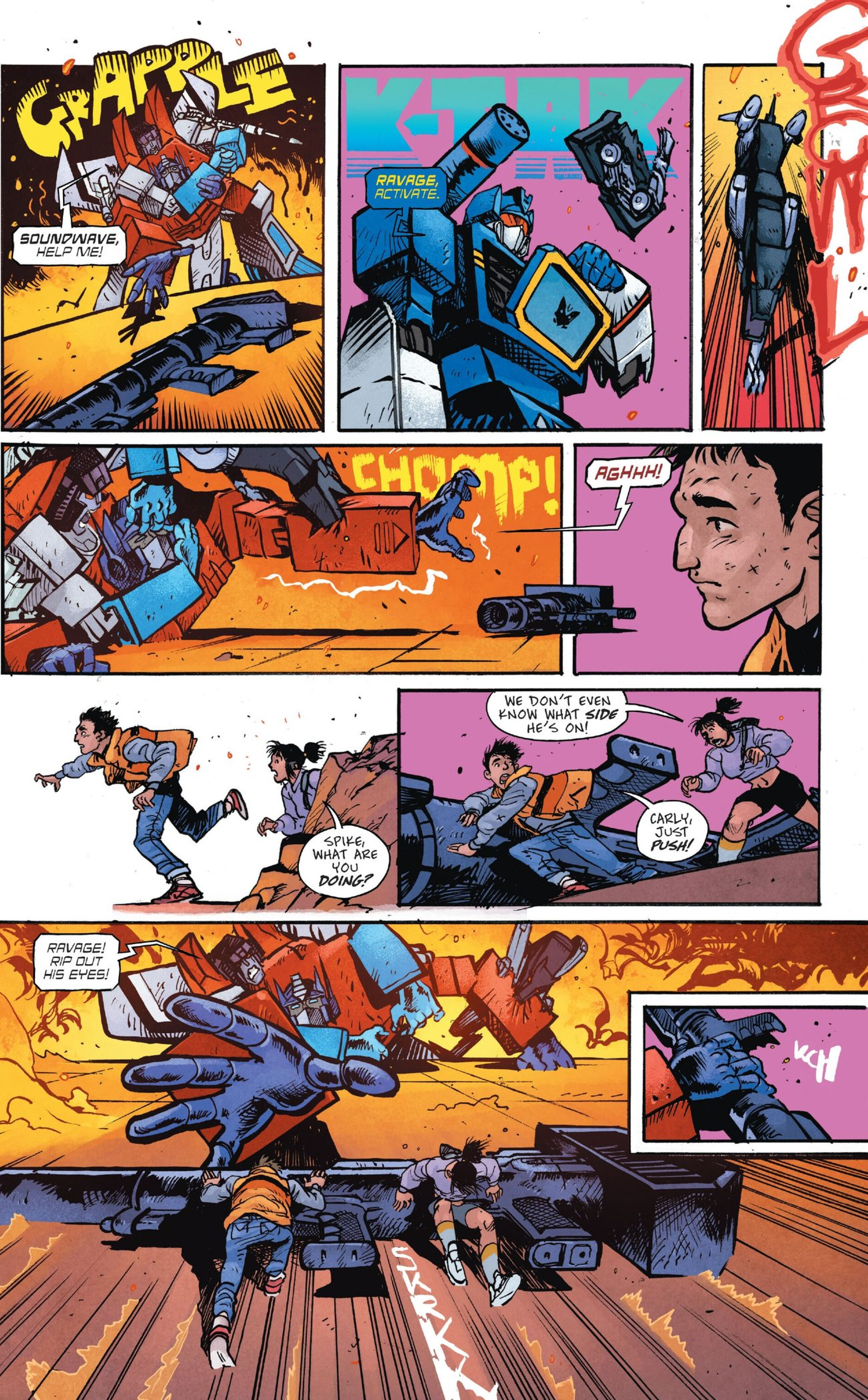

BOOM
RUN!
SPIKE, **WAIT**, HE'S GONNA SEE--
WHAT... ARE **YOU**?
I... I'M SPIKE.
GET BEHIND ME, SMALL CREATURES!
SMELTING **AUTOBOT**!

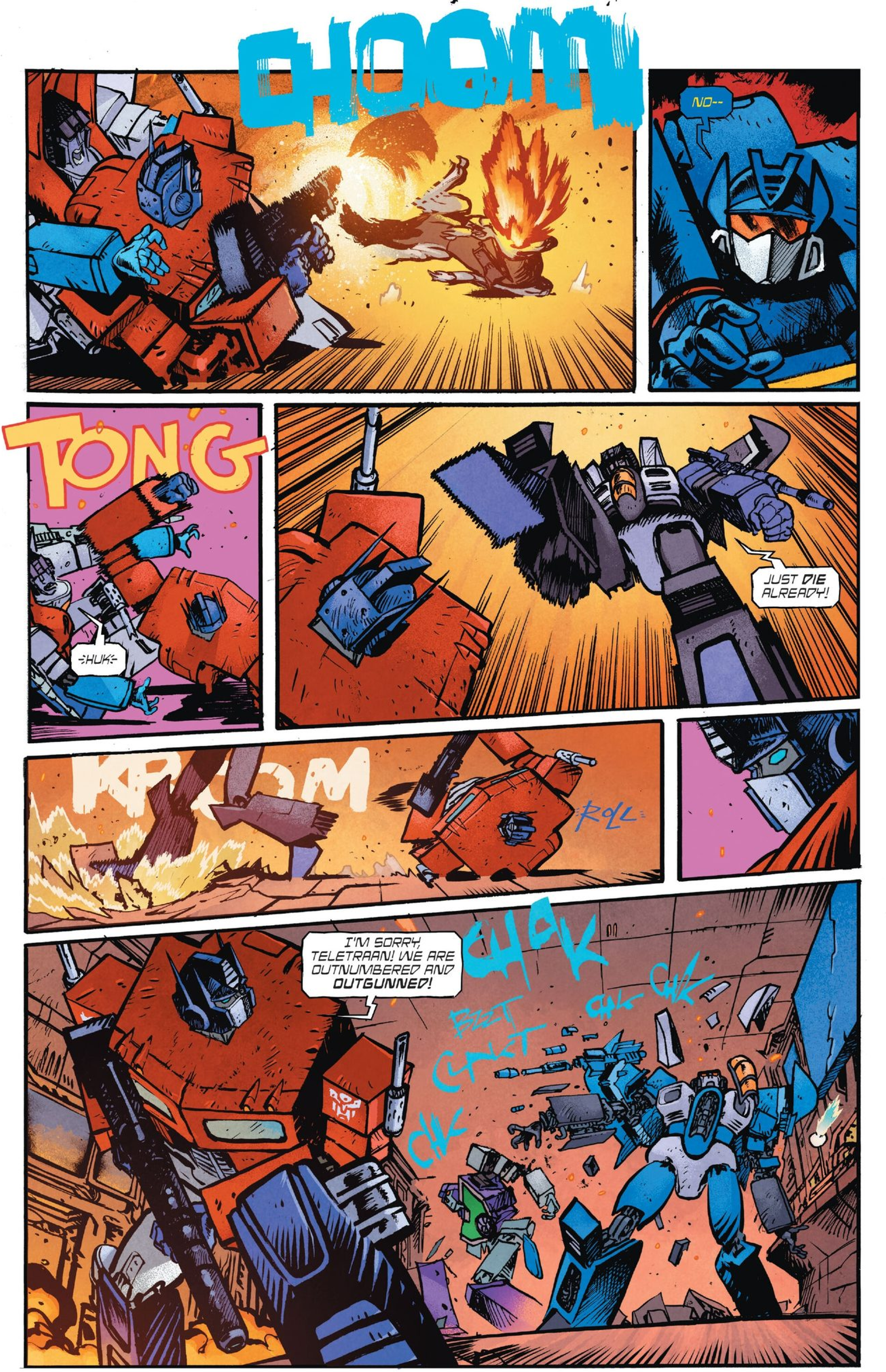

K-TONG!
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, BUDDY!
BLOWBLOWBLOW
SCATTER, AUTOBOTS!
RATCHET!
OPTIMUS... IT IS GOOD TO SEE Y--
TAKE COVER!
zwip
zip
zwip
SKYWARP! TELETRAAN ONE IS RECONSTRUCTING US RANDOMLY! BRING OUR FELLOW WARRIORS OVER HERE!
ON IT!
DRAGGGG

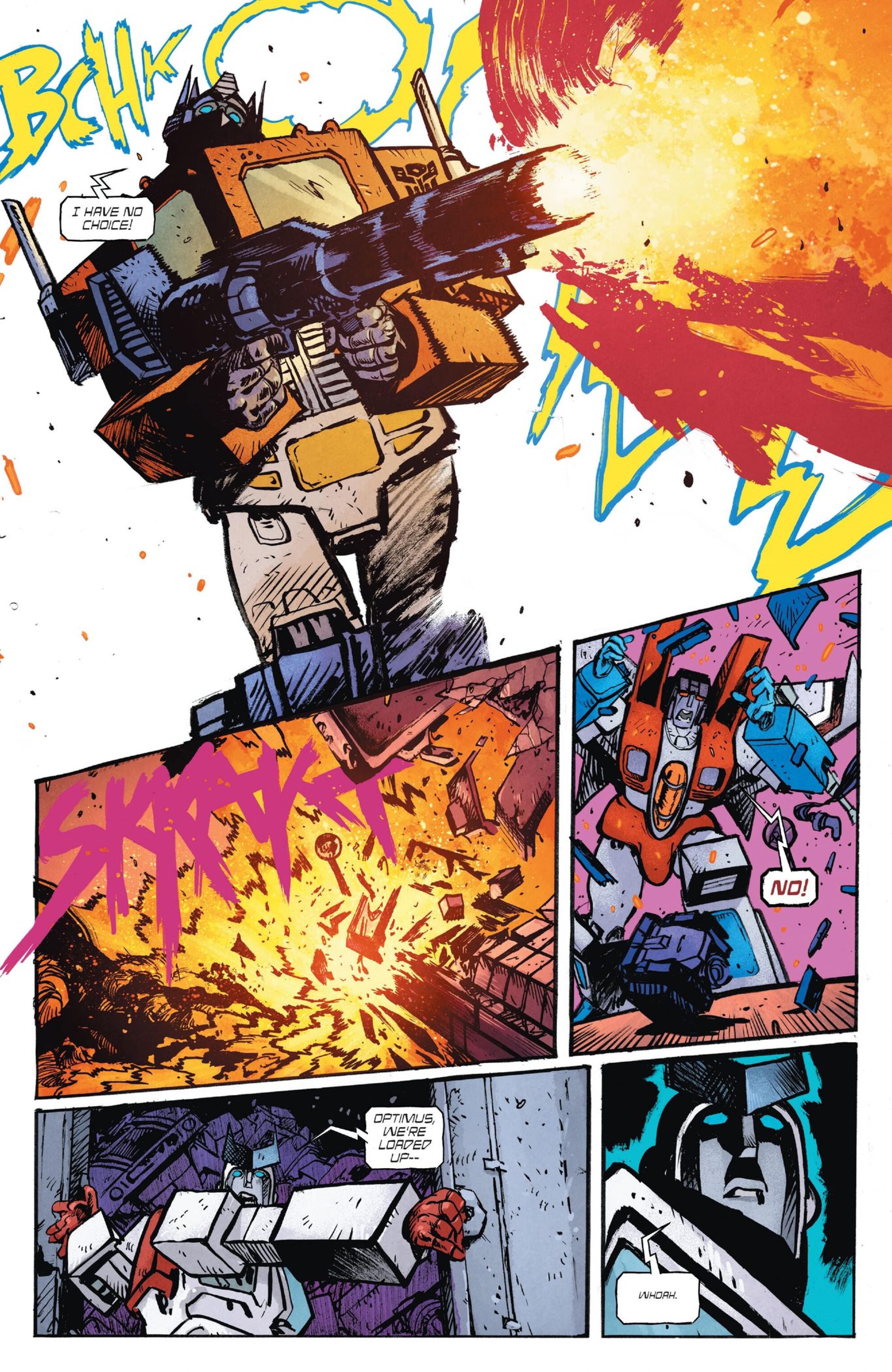

BZOW BZOW BZOW BZOWBZOW
JUST OUR **LUCK,** THE **DECEPTICONS** GOT ACTIVATED FIRST!
TOO MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN AWAKENED. WE MUST **RETREAT!**
BUT--OUR BROTHERS!
MY **NEW FORM,** THERE SHOULD BE SOME SORT OF...
TRAILER! CAN YOU LOAD OUR WARRIORS IN THERE?
IT WILL BE TIGHT, BUT--
!
GO!
I'LL BUY YOU TIME!

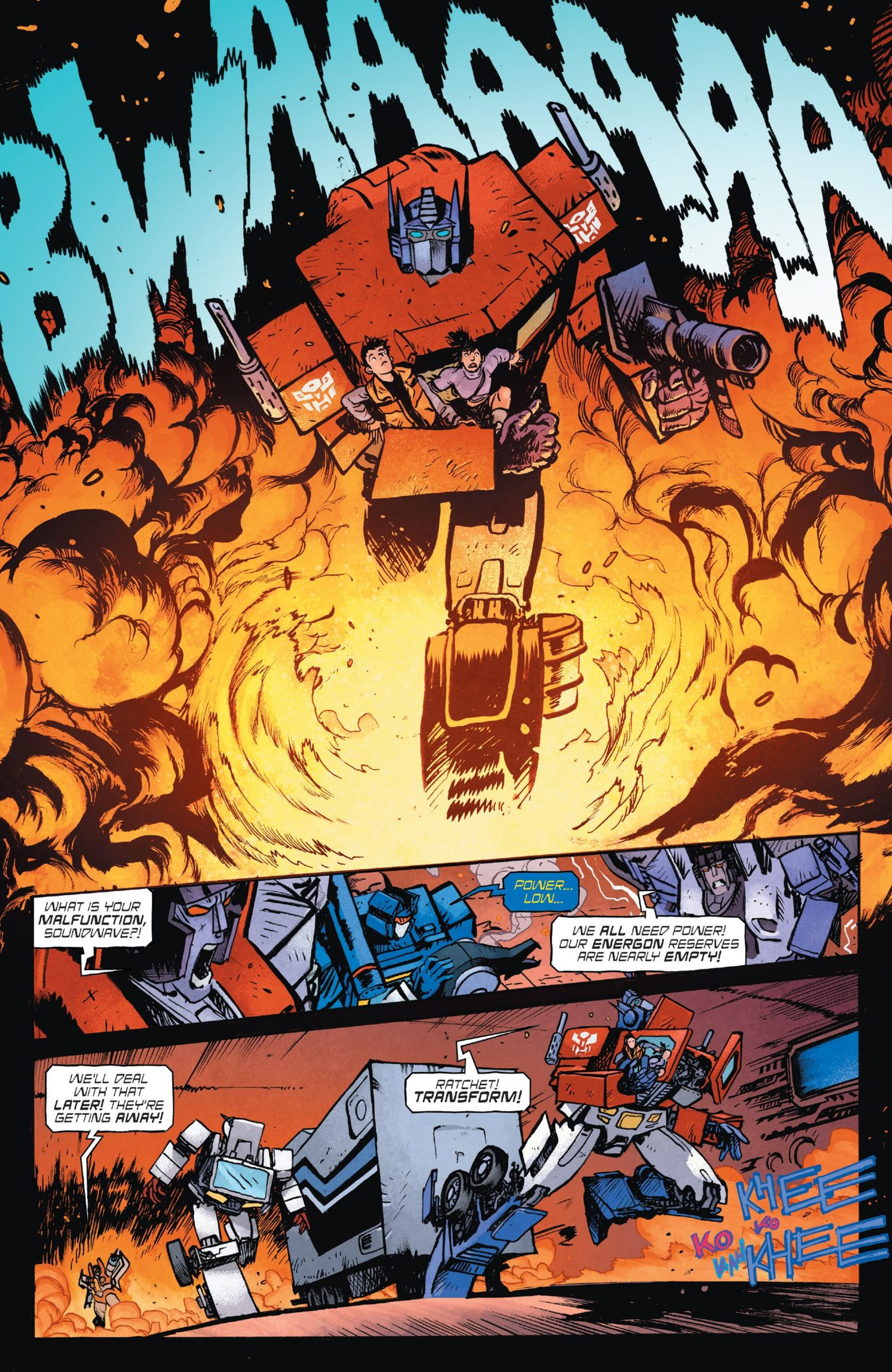

EXTERMINATION PROTOCOL...
CLAKT
CHK CHK
BZT
VREEEEEEE
ACTIVE.
BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE
FWOOSH
BOOM
OPTIMUS!

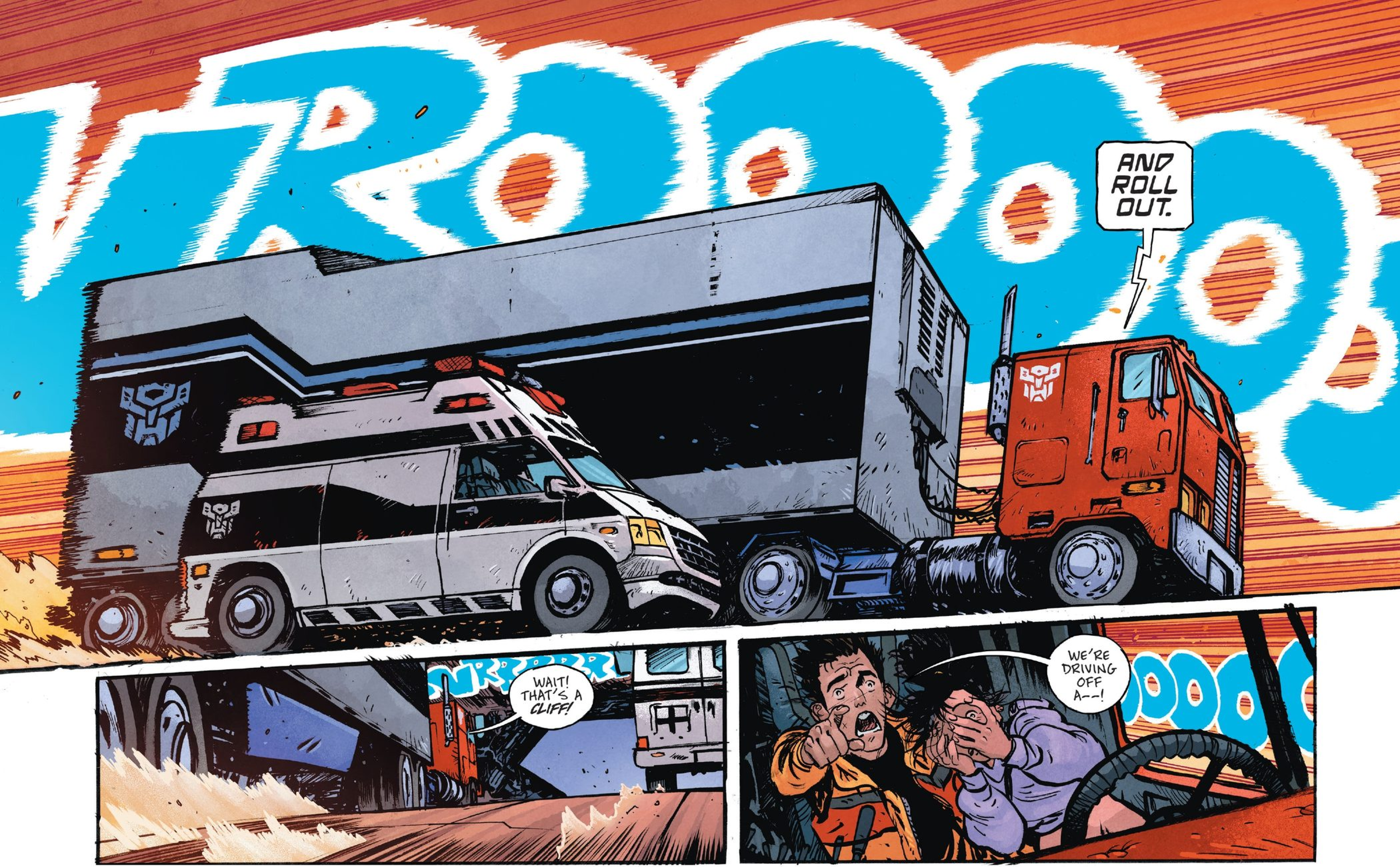

...BUMBLEBEE?
OH, NO...
OH, NO.
LOOK AT THIS FOOL... **MOURNING** OVER THE **WEAKEST** OF THEM ALL!
SPAKKUSK

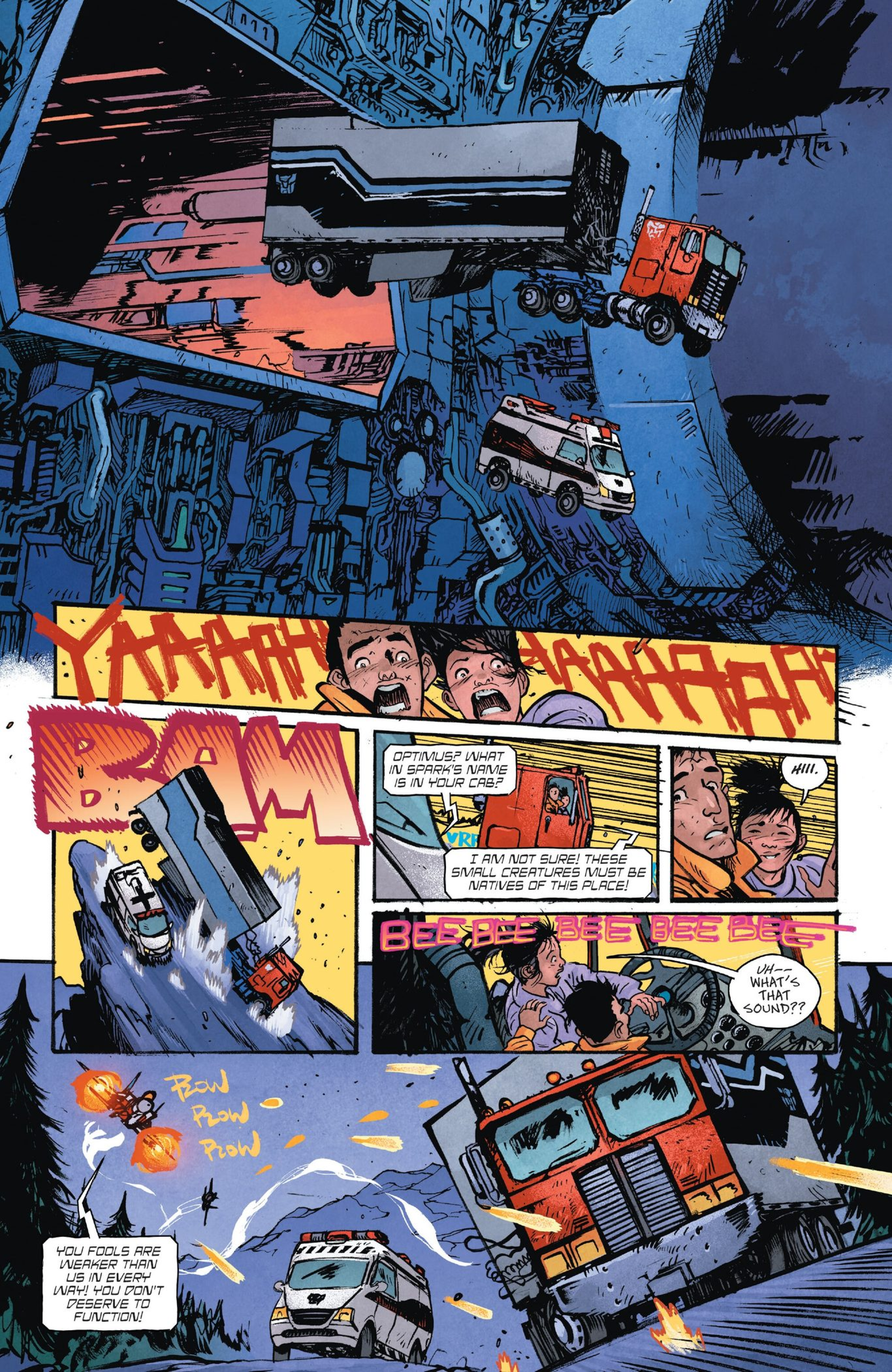

GRAPPLE
SOUNDWAVE, HELP ME!
RAVAGE, ACTIVATE.
GRWL
CHOMP!
AGHHH!
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SIDE HE'S ON!
SPIKE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CARLY, JUST PUSH!
RAVAGE! RIP OUT HIS EYES!
SKRKK

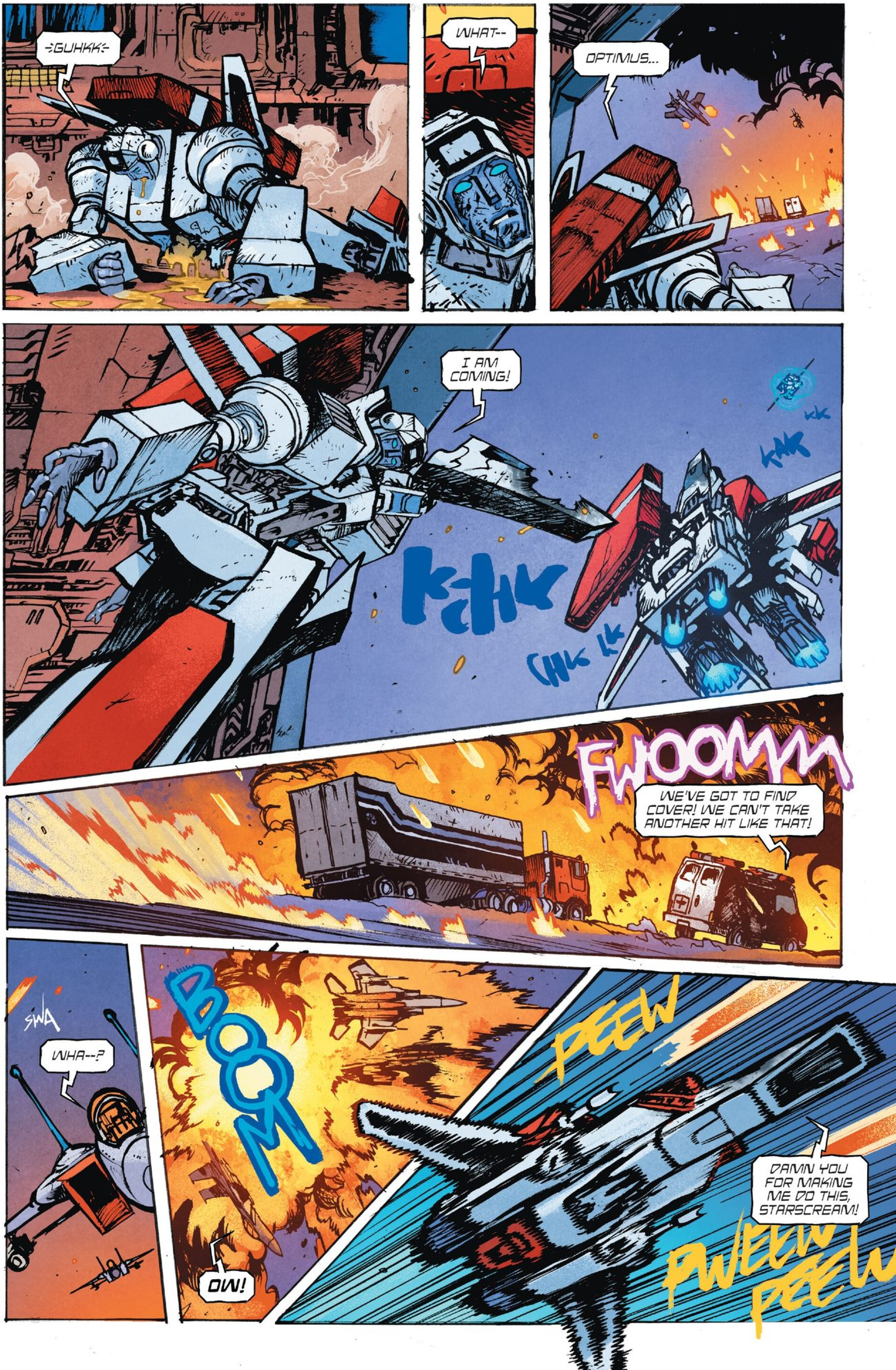

CHOOM
NO--
TONG
HUK
JUST DIE ALREADY!
KROOM
ROLL
I'M SORRY, TELETRAAN! WE ARE OUTNUMBERED AND OUTGUNNED!
CHAK
CHAK CHAK
BZZT
CLACK
CHK

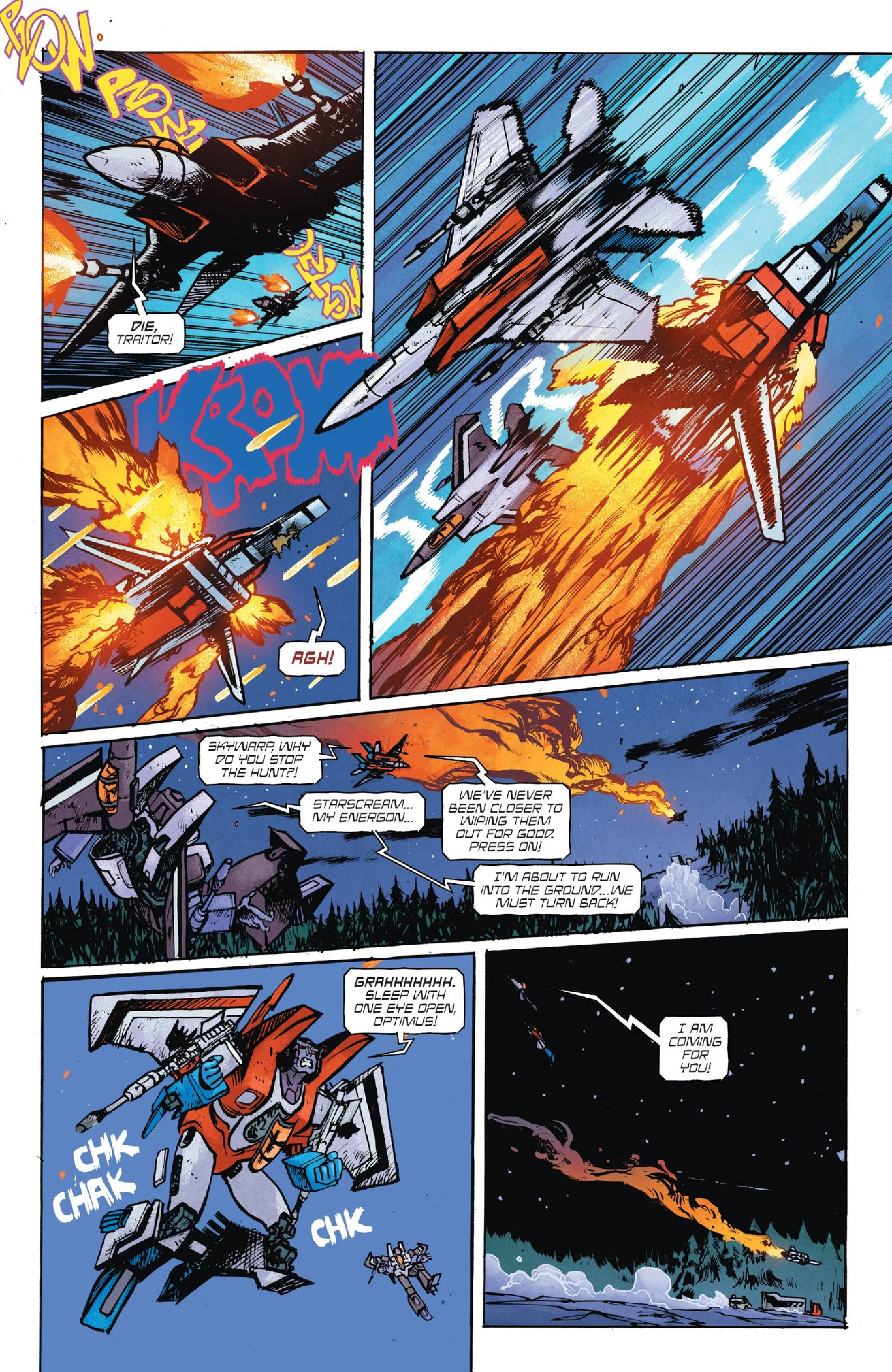

BCHK
I HAVE NO CHOICE!
SKRAKT
NO!
OPTIMUS, WE'RE LOADED UP--
WHOAH.

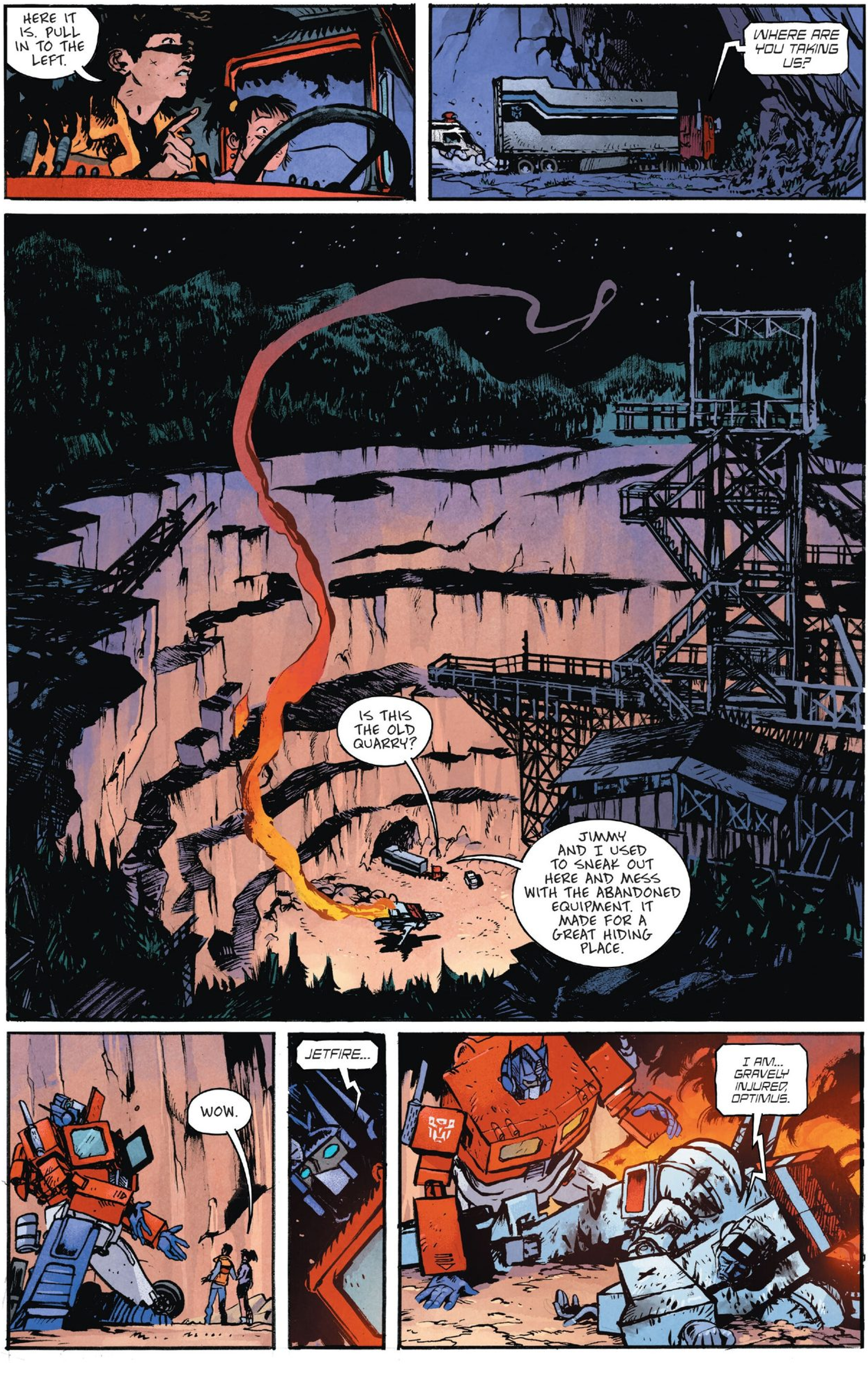

BWAAAAAA
WHAT IS YOUR MALFUNCTION, SOUNDWAVE?!
POWER... LOW...
WE ALL NEED POWER! OUR ENERGON RESERVES ARE NEARLY EMPTY!
WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT LATER! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
RATCHET! TRANSFORM!
KHEE
KO
KO
KHEE

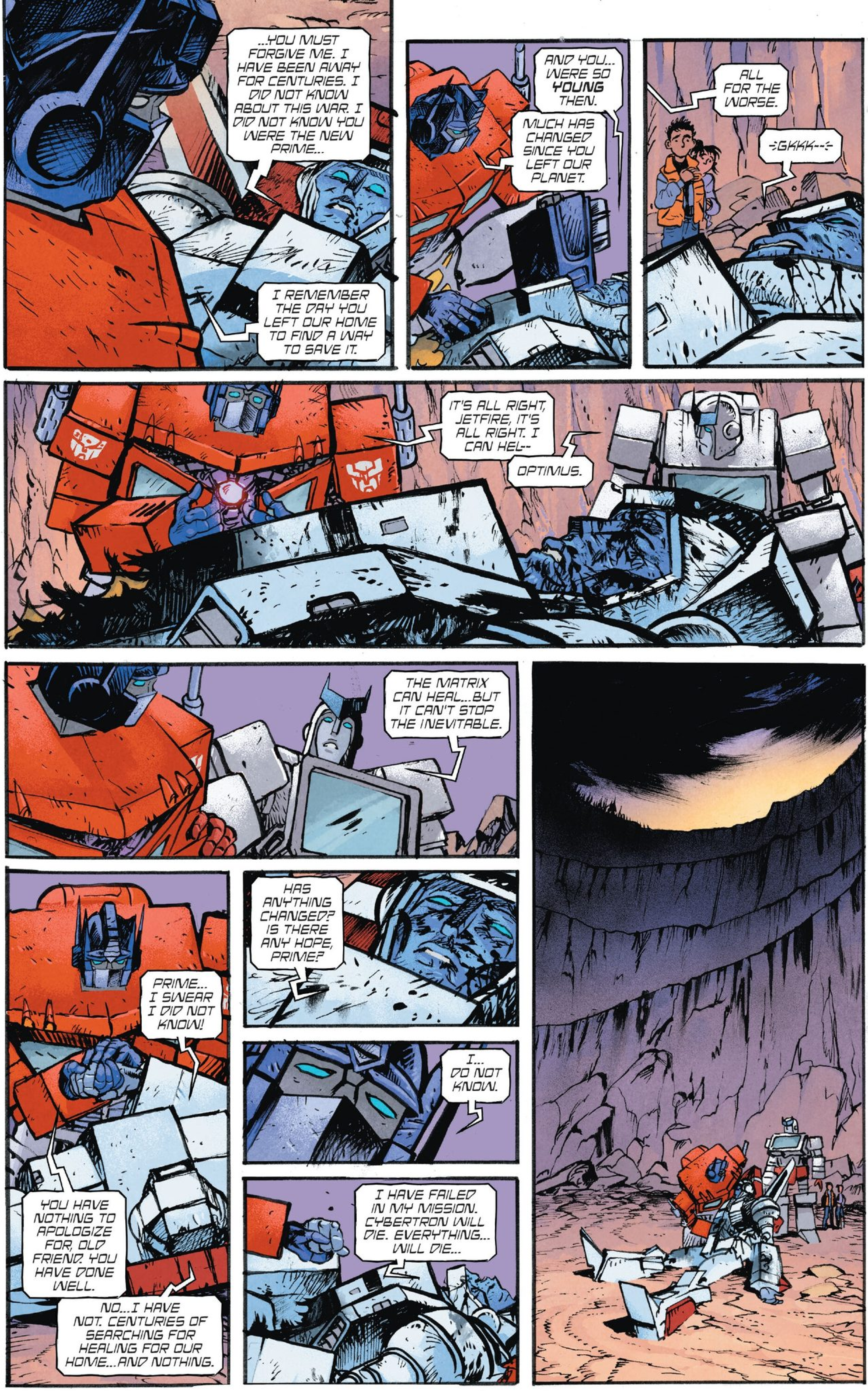

VROOOOOOOO
AND ROLL OUT.
WAIT! THAT'S A *CLIFF!*
WE'RE DRIVING OFF A--!

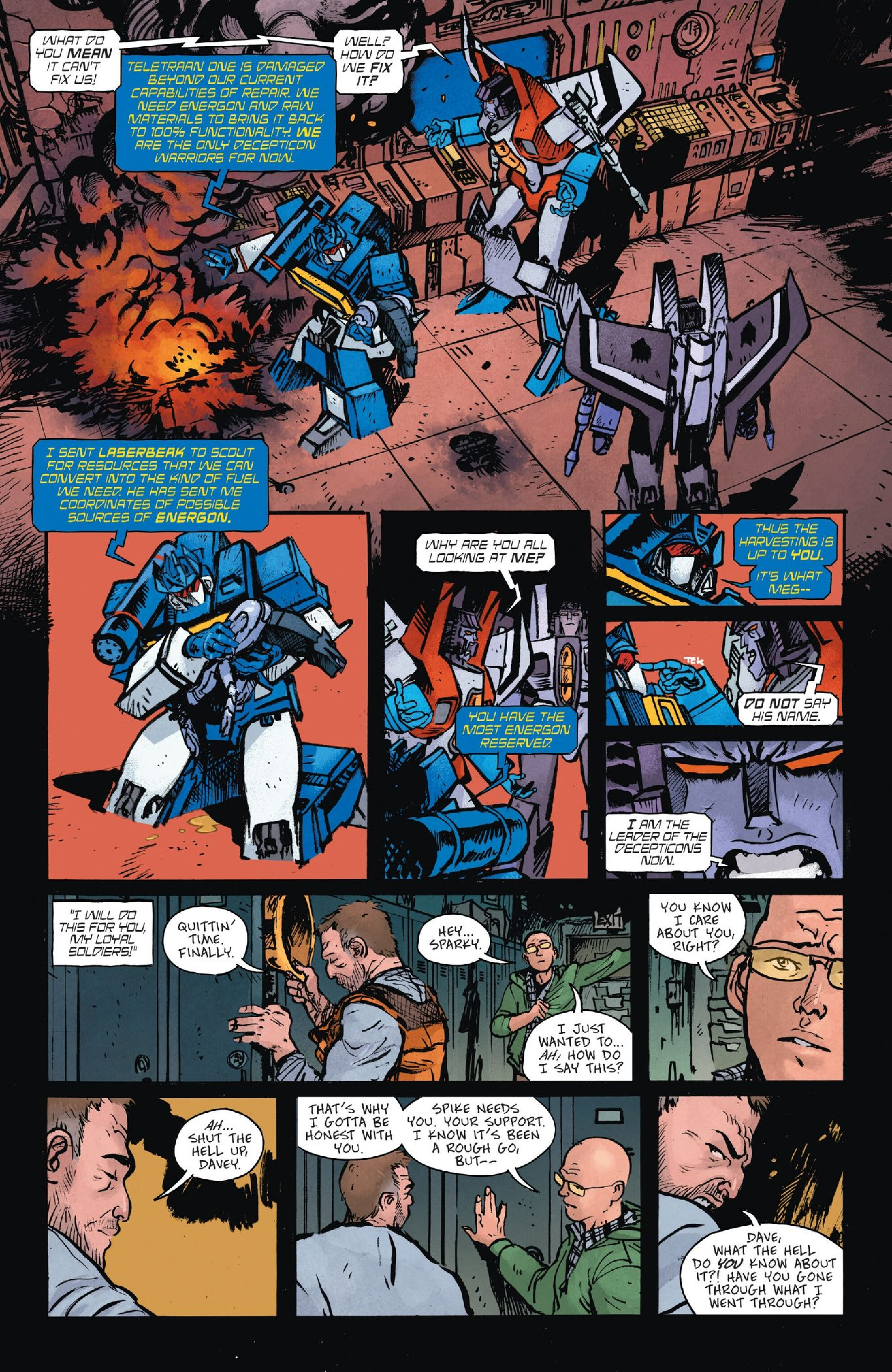

YAAARHH
AAAHHAAH
BAM
OPTIMUS? WHAT IN SPARK'S NAME IS IN YOUR CAB?
VRR
I AM NOT SURE! THESE SMALL CREATURES MUST BE NATIVES OF THIS PLACE!
HIII.
BEE BEE BEE BEE BEE
UH-- WHAT'S THAT SOUND??
PLOW
PLOW
PLOW
YOU FOOLS ARE WEAKER THAN US IN EVERY WAY! YOU DON'T DESERVE TO FUNCTION!

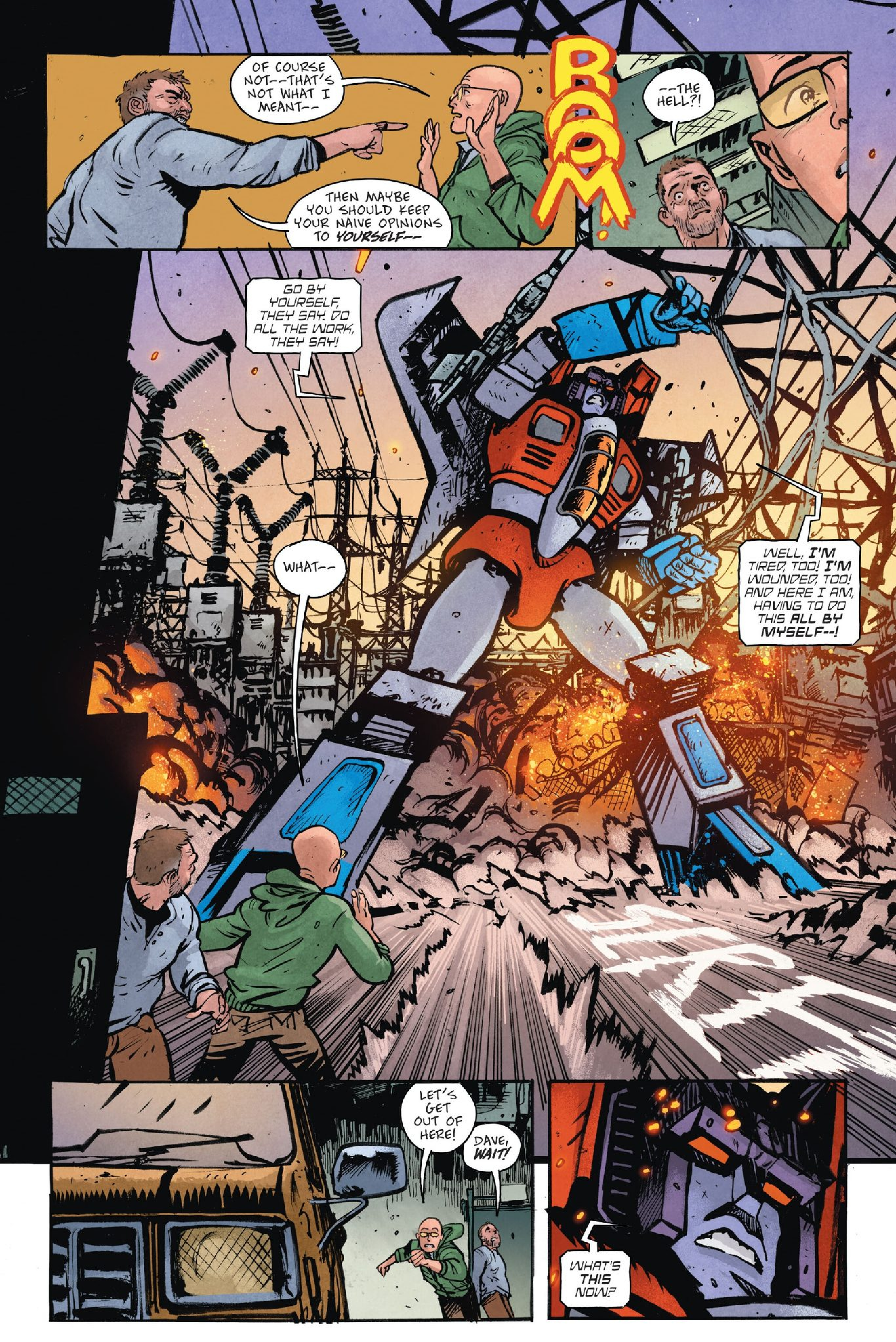

-GUHKK-
WHAT--
OPTIMUS...
I AM COMING!
KK
KAK
KCHK
CHK KK
FWOOMM
WE'VE GOT TO FIND COVER! WE CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER HIT LIKE THAT!
WHA--?
BOOM
OW!
PEEW
DAMN YOU FOR MAKING ME DO THIS, STARSCREAM!
PWEEW PEEW

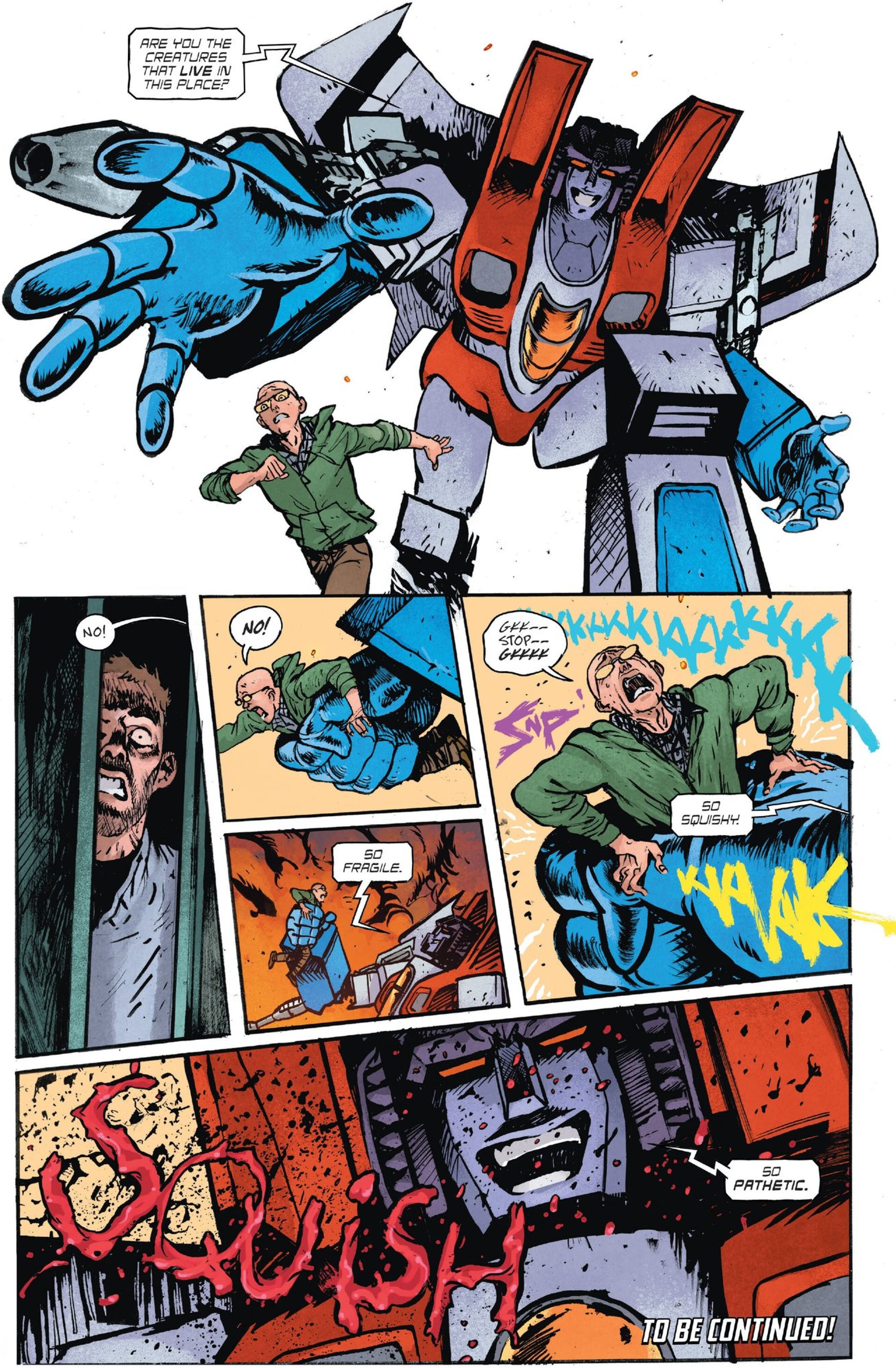

PZOW!
PZOW!!
DIE, TRAITOR!
KROK
AGH!
SKYWARP, WHY DO YOU STOP THE HUNT?!
WE'VE NEVER BEEN CLOSER TO WIPING THEM OUT FOR GOOD. PRESS ON!
STARSCREAM... MY ENERGON...
I'M ABOUT TO RUN INTO THE GROUND...WE MUST TURN BACK!
GRAHHHHHHH. SLEEP WITH ONE EYE OPEN, OPTIMUS!
CHK
CHAK
CHK
I AM COMING FOR YOU!


HERE IT IS. PULL IN TO THE LEFT.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?
IS THIS THE OLD QUARRY?
JIMMY AND I USED TO SNEAK OUT HERE AND MESS WITH THE ABANDONED EQUIPMENT. IT MADE FOR A GREAT HIDING PLACE.
WOW.
JETFIRE...
I AM... GRAVELY INJURED, OPTIMUS.


...YOU MUST FORGIVE ME. I HAVE BEEN AWAY FOR CENTURIES. I DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS WAR. I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE THE NEW PRIME...
I REMEMBER THE DAY YOU LEFT OUR HOME TO FIND A WAY TO SAVE IT.
AND YOU... WERE SO **YOUNG** THEN.
MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT OUR PLANET.
ALL FOR THE WORSE.
=GKKK--=
IT'S ALL RIGHT, JETFIRE, IT'S ALL RIGHT. I CAN HEL--
OPTIMUS.
THE MATRIX CAN HEAL...BUT IT CAN'T STOP THE INEVITABLE.
PRIME... I SWEAR I DID NOT KNOW!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR, OLD FRIEND. YOU HAVE DONE WELL.
NO...I HAVE NOT. CENTURIES OF SEARCHING FOR HEALING FOR OUR HOME...AND NOTHING.
HAS ANYTHING CHANGED? IS THERE ANY HOPE, PRIME?
I... DO NOT KNOW.
I HAVE FAILED IN MY MISSION. CYBERTRON WILL DIE. EVERYTHING... WILL DIE...


WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT CAN'T FIX US!
TELETRAAN ONE IS DAMAGED BEYOND OUR CURRENT CAPABILITIES OF REPAIR. WE NEED ENERGON AND RAW MATERIALS TO BRING IT BACK TO 100% FUNCTIONALITY. WE ARE THE ONLY DECEPTICON WARRIORS FOR NOW.
WELL? HOW DO WE FIX IT?
I SENT LASERBEAK TO SCOUT FOR RESOURCES THAT WE CAN CONVERT INTO THE KIND OF FUEL WE NEED. HE HAS SENT ME COORDINATES OF POSSIBLE SOURCES OF ENERGON.
WHY ARE YOU ALL LOOKING AT ME?
YOU HAVE THE MOST ENERGON RESERVED.
THUS THE HARVESTING IS UP TO YOU.
IT'S WHAT MEG--
TEK
DO NOT SAY HIS NAME.
I AM THE LEADER OF THE DECEPTICONS NOW.
"I WILL DO THIS FOR YOU, MY LOYAL SOLDIERS!"
QUITTIN' TIME. FINALLY.
EXIT
HEY... SPARKY.
I JUST WANTED TO... AH, HOW DO I SAY THIS?
YOU KNOW I CARE ABOUT YOU, RIGHT?
AH... SHUT THE HELL UP, DAVEY.
THAT'S WHY I GOTTA BE HONEST WITH YOU.
SPIKE NEEDS YOU. YOUR SUPPORT. I KNOW IT'S BEEN A ROUGH GO, BUT--
DAVE, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?! HAVE YOU GONE THROUGH WHAT I WENT THROUGH?


OF COURSE NOT--THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT--
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR NAIVE OPINIONS TO YOURSELF--
BOOM!
--THE HELL?!
GO BY YOURSELF, THEY SAY. DO ALL THE WORK, THEY SAY!
WHAT--
WELL, I'M TIRED, TOO! I'M WOUNDED, TOO! AND HERE I AM, HAVING TO DO THIS ALL BY MYSELF--!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
DAVE, WAIT!
WHAT'S THIS NOW?


ARE YOU THE CREATURES THAT **LIVE** IN THIS PLACE?
NO!
NO!
GKK-- STOP-- GKKKK
SNP!
SO SQUISHY.
SO FRAGILE.
SQUISH
SO PATHETIC.
TO BE CONTINUED!

SEND LETTERS TO TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

When I was little, I took the bus every morning. And every morning this bus would eventually turn left on Franklin Street to go up the steep hill to my school. And of course, in early first grade, I HAD to bring my Optimus Prime figure to show and tell. And I couldn't help but pull it out of my backpack as I sat down on that bus, and of course I clumsily dropped his removable blue hands on the metal floor, right as we took a left on Franklin, going up the hill. I tried to grab them as they rolled under my seat to the back of the bus, but there was no time to look for them in the chaos of pulling up to school. I ran it through my head so many times, trying to figure out how I could get those blue hands back. How could I have been so dumb? He looks so stupid in robot form without hands! How will he hold his GUN NOW? I was devastated.

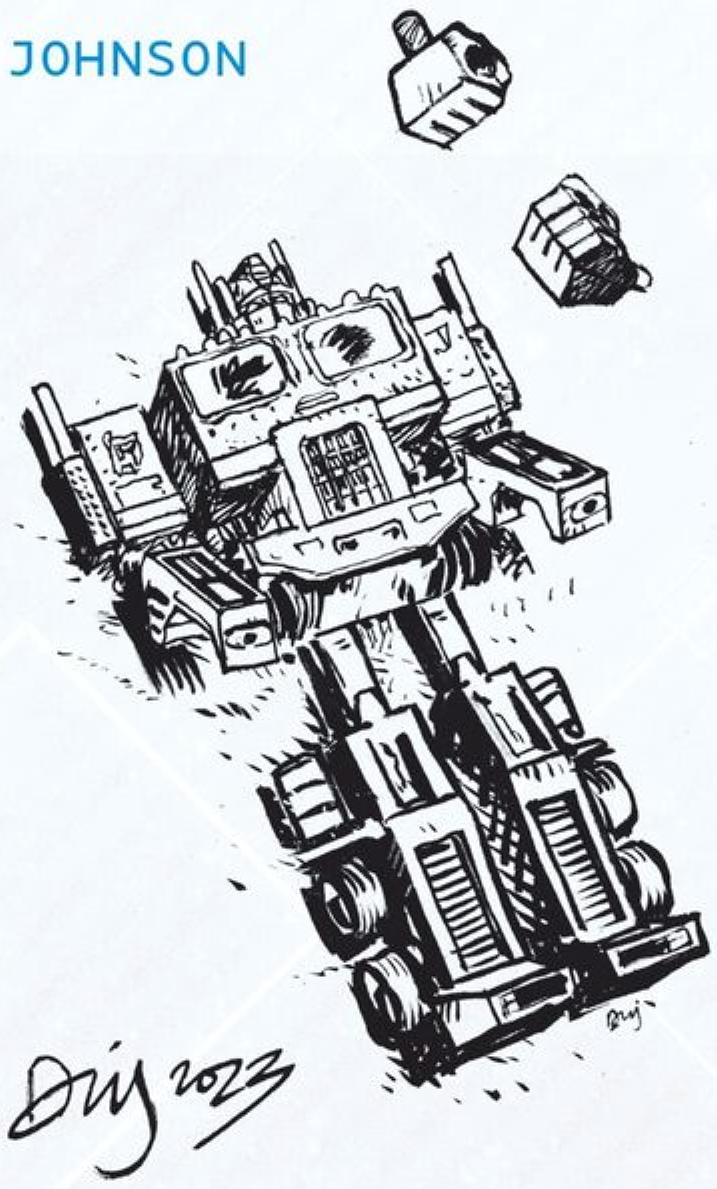
I remember when my grandpa took me to the Toys“R”Us in our town and bought me that Optimus Prime. I knew immediately how special and different it was from all the other toys just by looking at it. There was a purity in its design, something that would stick out to me even as I was so young. That clear, functional, and dynamic Japanese design aesthetic has been a huge part of my visual language. I still use it to this day.

My dad was always concerned about violence in my comic books. He would confiscate comics gifted to me by family and friends because there was just too much punching, too much “meanness”. I know he meant well, but I was craving anything that I could call my own, that could coexist in the house and live up to my parents' comic code. That's what led me to the Marvel *Transformers* books in the back issue bins at Bedrock Comics. I had found a new love. I had marveled at the G1 TV show for years, but there was no way to pause after-school television, and I wanted to DRAW these characters. The comics allowed me to truly study them. I would try and fail every time, not quite able to replicate the harsh angularity of Optimus's head while trying to retain that softness of character and spirit. I always thought, *If I could draw Optimus Prime, I could draw anything*. And so began my growth as a visual artist. So much of my artistic journey started with Transformers. I owe them a lot.

If I'm honest, I feel a little self-conscious writing about this. There are worse things that can happen to a kid than losing the hands of a red and blue toy, and much cooler stories about a person getting into art at a young age. But there is a deep truth to the fact that these characters have been with me since the very beginning. I can't separate them, so why even try? This TRANSFORMERS book you hold in your hands is my best attempt at celebrating that. I've brought my very best to the table to try and remind us of the excitement (and the loss!) we experienced way back when.

Thanks for being here,

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON



Hi all, editor Sean here to say, THANK YOU. We at Skybound couldn't be more passionate about Transformers and G.I. Joe and everything we're building here in the Energon Universe. If this is your first EU experience, there's four issues of VOID RIVALS by Robert Kirkman & Lorenzo De Felici available now. That's where Jetfire's journey started, so check them out!

TRANSFORMERS #2 comes out November 8, and you can take a peek at what's coming up in the Energon Universe on the following pages.

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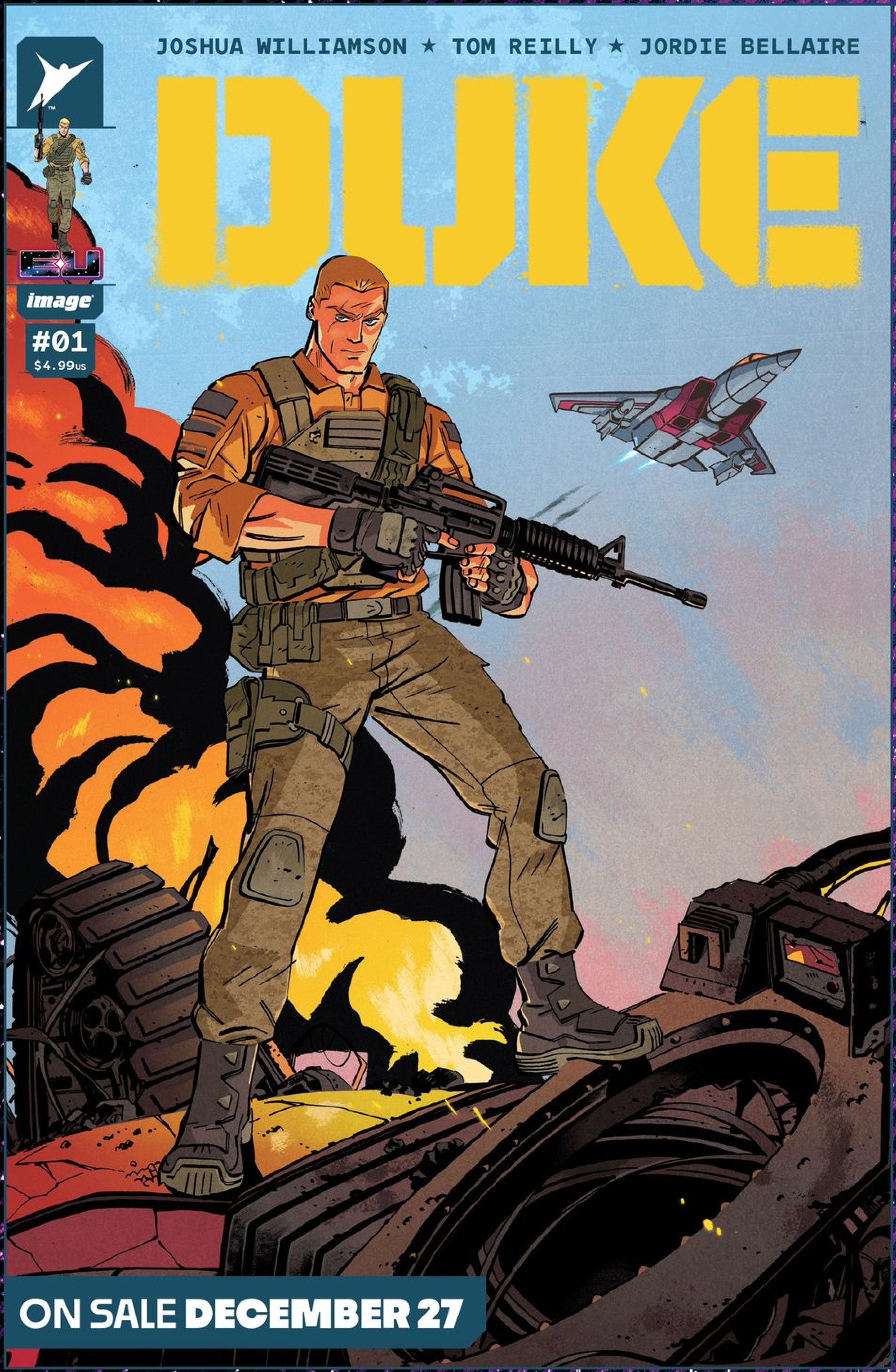
CODENAME: G.I. JOE STARTS HERE!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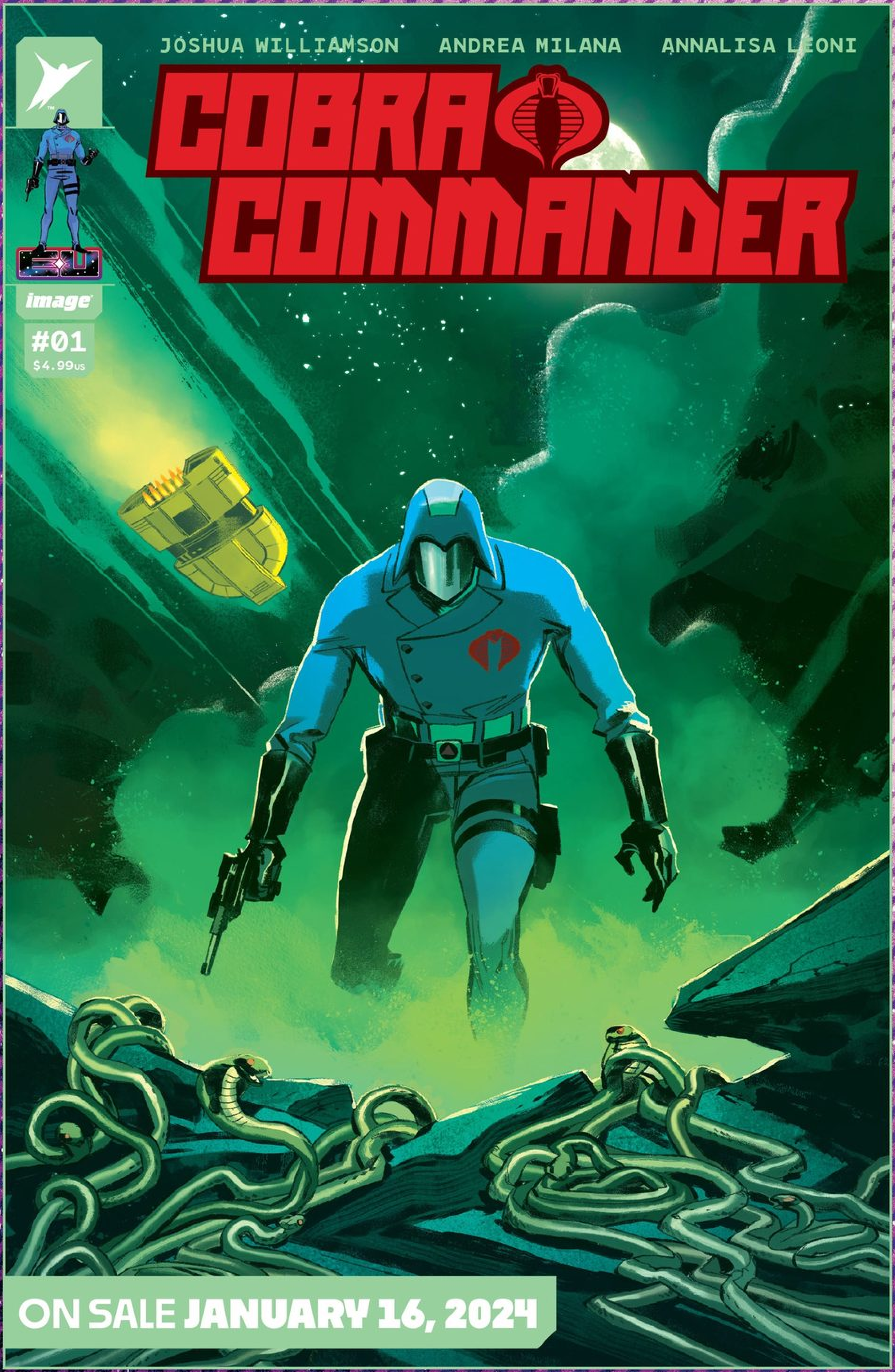
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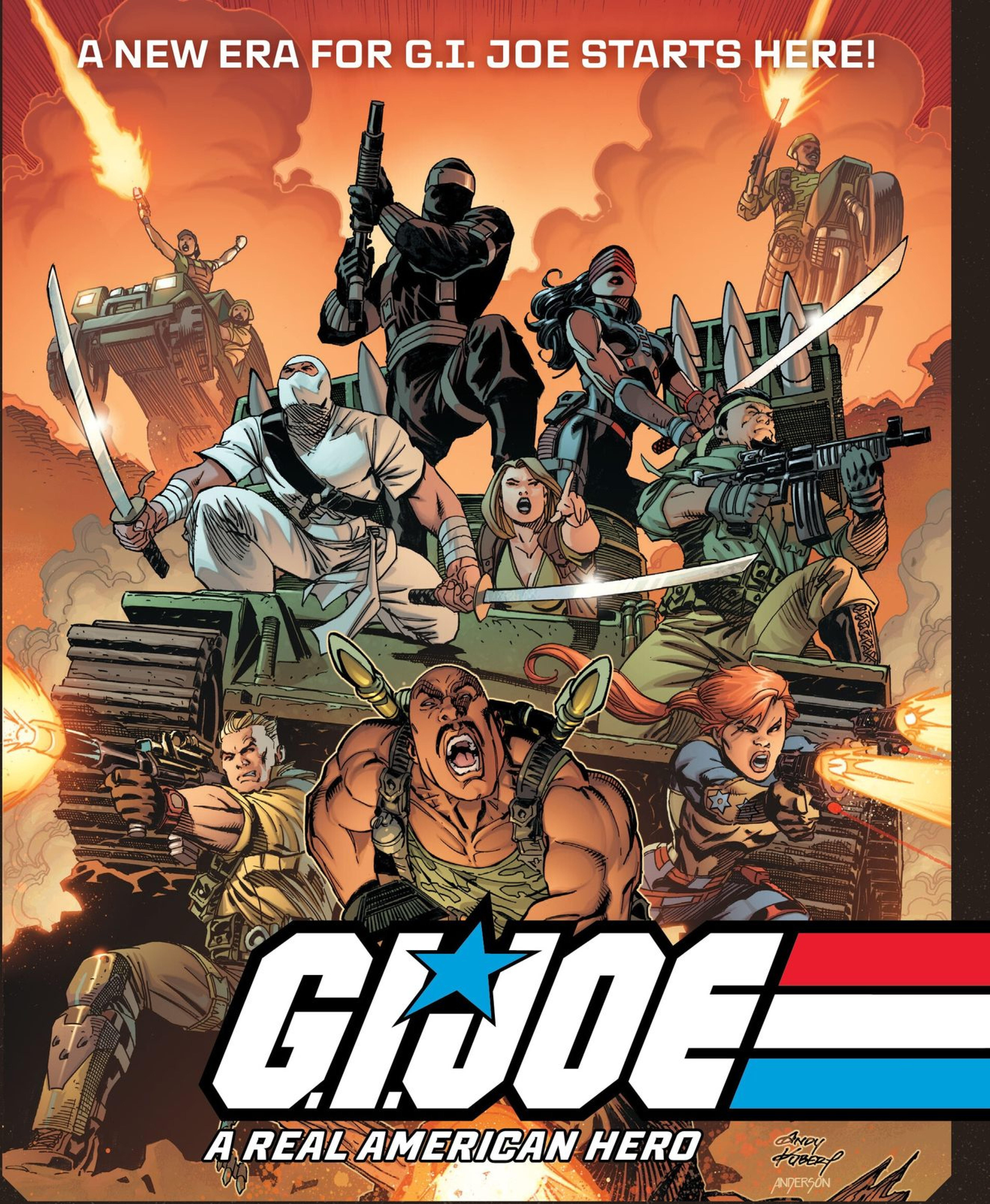
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